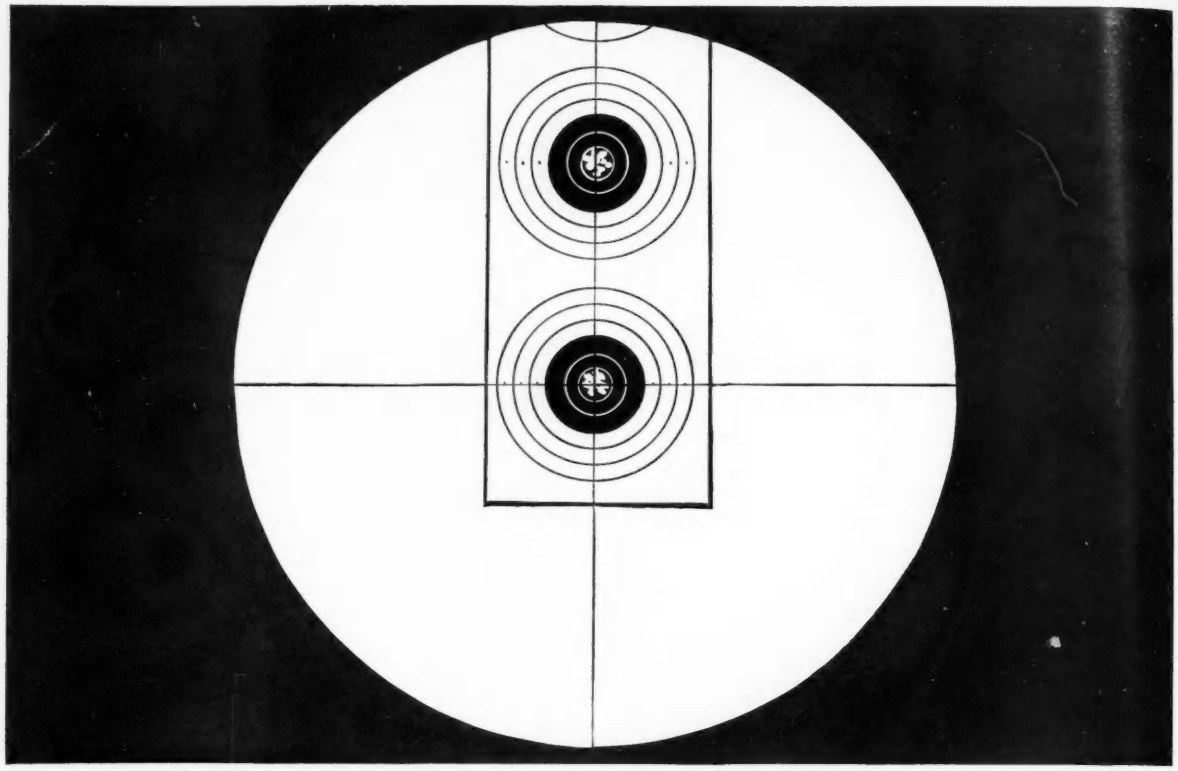
AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

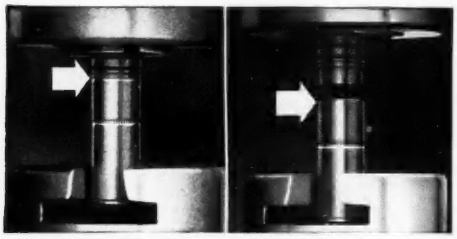


How Peters gives you "second sight"

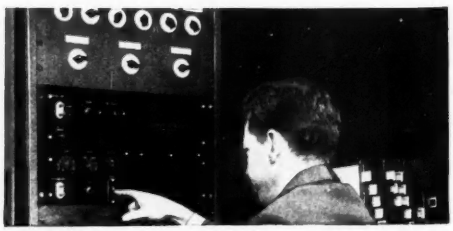
Nine in the 10-ring and one to go! That's the picture in your scope as you squeeze off the last shot. And chances are your possible will be complete if all other factors are equal and you're shooting Peters match cartridges.

That's because every Peters match cartridge you shoot gives you "second sight." Second sight, because Peters experts make these cartridges as perfect as science and machinery can produce. Second sight, because these cartridges are alike to an extremely fine degree. Second sight because samples from every lot of these cartridges are test-fired from machine-rest guns on Peters ballistics ranges. And, amazingly enough, the average group shot at 100 yards with Peters match 22's is the size of a 25¢ piece!

Next time you shoot for perfection, load up with Peters "Police Match" or Peters "Dewar Match" 22's . . . and, for practice shooting, Peters "Target" 22's. *There's no more accurate rim-fire ammunition in the world!*



UNIFORMITY THROUGH AND THROUGH: Experts put Peters cartridges through "pull-apart" tests for uniformity in crimping. Other tests are made for perfect bullets, cases, primers, and powder.



SAMENESS IN velocity, trajectory and accuracy is precision-checked. Peters experts use the "chronoscope" to test uniformity of Peters match cartridges.

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PETERS CARTRIDGE DIVISION — *Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.—"Dewar Match" and "Target" are Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.—"Police Match" is a trademark of Peters Cartridge Division.*

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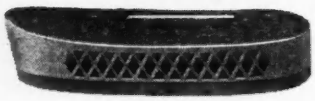

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RIFLEMAN WORDS . . . .

Each month this "lexicon for shooters" is devoted to a few words peculiar to the shooting game which may be puzzling to the newcomer. All words defined are used in a current article.

BENCH REST—A means for securing maximum accuracy with rifles. It is constructed as a table which permits the shooter to sit comfortably with both elbows on the surface and the barrel or forestock resting on a specially-built support or sandbag.

BLOWN PRIMER—A primer which may for various reasons blow back out of the primer pocket of the cartridge case when fired, permitting the escape of hot powder gases under high pressure.

BOAT-TAIL BULLET—A bullet having a tapered (truncated-cone) shaped base. Such a shape streamlines the bullet and gives a better "ballistic coefficient."

BULLET MOLD—A block of steel halved and cut out with a "cherry" (toothed cutter) having the shape of a bullet. The two halves are held in alignment by dowel pins. Bullets are cast by pouring molten lead or other bullet alloy into the mold through a "sprue hole" in the top. On separating the two halves the molded bullet can be removed.

COLD WORKING—The shaping of metal by swaging or drawing at room temperature. Cold working of metal parts has an effect on the grain structure which varies with different metals.

CRIMP—As it pertains to ammunition, crimping means the turning in of the mouth of a cartridge case so that it grips the bullet tightly enough to hold it in place. Also, "crimped primers," in which a thin flange of brass is forced out from the edge of the primer pocket to hold the primer firmly in the cartridge case.

DUTCHMAN—A piece which is inserted in a groove or crevice to hide a job of poor fitting. Usually refers to gunstock making.

GAS CUTTING—Hot powder gases under high pressure and traveling at high speed have an erosive action which cuts into steel or brass. Barrels of high-velocity, small-caliber rifles are particularly subject to gas cutting, and in extreme cases may be ruined in a few hundred shots.

KILN DRIED—Wood which has been baked in an industrial oven to remove moisture. A stock blank may be left in such an oven for three months or more, depending upon the amount of moisture to be removed. Hot air is usually circulated in the kiln, and will carry away several pints of water from an ordinary unseasoned stock blank.

MAIN SPRING—In a firearm, the spring which drives the striker or hammer forward in order to discharge the cartridge.

STOCK BLANK—A block of wood cut to rough dimensions, from which a gunstock is made. Such a blank must be inletted to receive the rifle's metal parts and then shaped to the desired outside dimensions and finished.

X-RAY—Electromagnetic waves produced by the bombardment of a target with cathode rays. X-ray pictures are now being made at high speed in order to study the action of bullets and shot within the barrel and in synthetic tissues such as gelatin.

"Lost Shot"—*Churchill Ettinger*

Today's Loss . . . Tomorrow's Game

If you're in an area where game is plentiful, pass up a few birds. You'll be helping to halt the steep national decline in game and assure good hunting for yourself and others for years to come. So, for the good of the sport, limit your bag, and join and support local and national organizations for game restoration and preservation.

Sportsmen: Support the Ranger Program

Write today for free 32-page booklet which tells how to have more fun target shooting—how to start a rifle club for both young and old in your community—how they can win Ranger Shooting Emblems. No obligation. Address—Sportsmen's Service Bureau—Dept. A-3, Sporting Arms & Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, 343 Lexington Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

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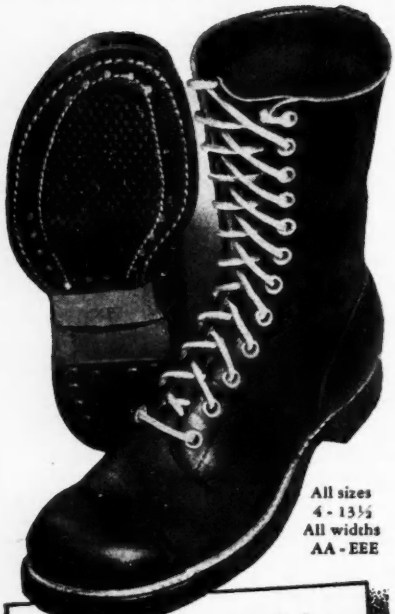

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AR-4

Ricochets . . .

NEW YORK LAWS

The Senate, State of
New York, Albany

Editor:

I agree with you absolutely in your views on firearms legislation. You may rest assured that as long as I am Chairman of the Codes Committee none of these lousy bills, such as are before the Committee this year, will be passed. If they are, it will be over my dead body.

If people would stop to think, they would realize that the Revolutionary War was won in this country by the farmer and the individual pioneer who stood behind a tree with his musket and helped to tear down organized military power. The privilege to bear arms is guaranteed to us under the Constitution of the United States.

I honestly believe that the type of legislation which has come before the Legislature this year is inspired by communists and it shall be defeated in Committee, have no fear.

FRED A. YOUNG

● *The NRA's thanks to State Senator Young (40th District) for his outspoken opposition to any law which would restrict legitimate gun ownership in his State.*—ED.

THIRTY-THIRTY

San Juan, P. R.

Editor:

"Little Eva" (RIFLEMAN, February) struck such a responsive chord that I simply cannot help adding my two bits' worth. I cut my teeth on an old thutty-thutty in the same country as the writer. Once got two tom turkeys at one shot, heads off both. This past year I didn't have time for my usual three months' trip to Canada so took a "packaged" trip to a ranch in British Columbia near Bridge Lake. As soon as we had been assigned cabins, everybody seemed to want to "sight in." A target was put up at 100 measured yards and the bombardment began with everything from .300 Weatherby Magnums to .35 Remington autos. One guy with a .30-'06 had a scope so high that he had his Lyman 48 under it. Said he looked at the game through the scope, shot 'em through the Lyman!! Nobody seemed to be able to get in the black for some reason. I might say no .30-30 was in the gang of about six or seven men bombarding the target. During a slight lull we heard a terrific racket coming down the woods road near where we were shooting. Came an old pick-up, terrible old wreck, boot on the side of the cab with an old gun bouncing around, slamming against the side of the body of the pick-up. The thing skidded to a stop alongside and a lad hops out, drags the old zulu out and walks over to the "firing line." The old wreck he carried was sure enough an old battered .30-30, looked as if it might be one of the first ones made. The chap waited his turn. Somebody signalled him to go ahead and he pulled this old wreck up, wham! apparently without sighting, turned and started back to his old car. The marker tore off a piece of white tape he was using to cover holes with, and stuck it directly over the center of the bull!

All of the guides at the ranch carried .30-30's, some Savage, some Winchester, but the point is that they were so deadly with those old guns that a moose didn't have a chance if he got up anywhere near. As this is Lodgepole country, they either got up in range or you didn't see them at all.

C. V. DUMARS

Couer d'Alene, Idaho

Editor:

You know, sometimes we get articles that renew our faith in men and guns. Rodgers' article ("Deerslayers' Gun," March), also "Little Eva" by Allen are really something. I get so damn tired of bigger and bigger guns I sometimes throw my magazine on the floor and tramp on it.

GRANT REISLAND

White Salmon, Wash.

Editor:

"Deerslayer's Gun" is so good I have read it over several times and will reread it many more times. It is even better than Rodger's first article.

Another splendid feature of the issue is the editorial "Passion for Crisis." I have often noticed this same tendency, and agree 100 percent.

EDWARD SISSON

VISE . . . VICE?

Yreka, Calif.

Editor:

How about that viCe on page 27? (RIFLEMAN, February). Have heard of people being in the grip of some sort of vice but not firing pins. Also, why buy a whole screw driver to get a ferrule? Ferrules are easily made for small tools from cartridge cases, using the butt end. For larger tools they can be made from tubing or pipe, or bored from solid. Besides which, 'most all cheap tools have fairly high carbon steel in the blades, requiring only proper hardening and tempering to be OK. Lack of this treatment is largely what makes them cheap.

PAUL R. DODGE

BROWN . . . GRIZZLY

Milford, Utah

Editor:

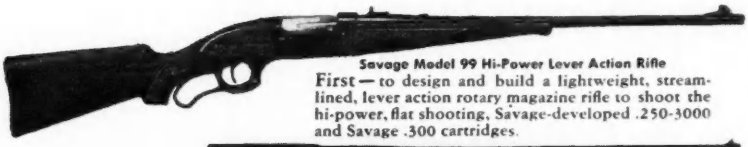
May I add my two cents' worth on the question of brown and grizzly bears and your apparent failure to sort them out (RIFLEMAN, March, page 6)? The classification of bears within the genus *Ursus* has not been settled. There doesn't seem to be a hard-and-fast rule that can be laid down to sort out these related forms, particularly where their ranges touch. In other words, how can your overworked editorial staff be expected to straighten out a field in which the experts disagree?

No, I don't know Mr. Sarber and have never even met him. I do know, however, that certain officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service speak very highly of a man of that name—undoubtedly he—and that about 1940 a man of that name shipped quite a collection of brown bear skins to the Biological Survey's Mammal Collection in the National Museum which I unpacked and catalogued, being then employed by the F&WS as an assistant on that collection.

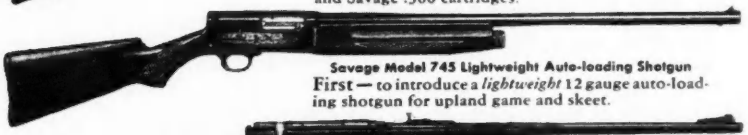
HAROLD W. NORTON

(Continued on page 6)

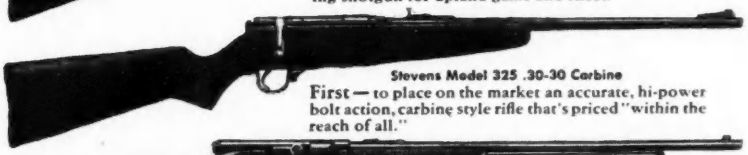
First in the field



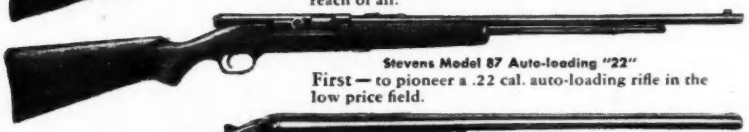
Savage Model 99 Hi-Power Lever Action Rifle
First — to design and build a lightweight, streamlined, lever action rotary magazine rifle to shoot the hi-power, flat shooting, Savage-developed .250-3000 and Savage .300 cartridges.



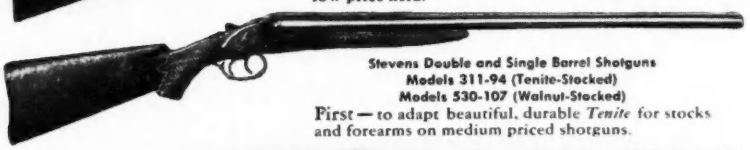
Savage Model 745 Lightweight Auto-loading Shotgun
First — to introduce a *lightweight* 12 gauge auto-loading shotgun for upland game and skeet.



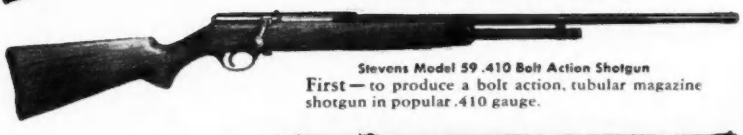
Stevens Model 325 .30-30 Carbine
First — to place on the market an accurate, hi-power bolt action, carbine style rifle that's priced "within the reach of all."



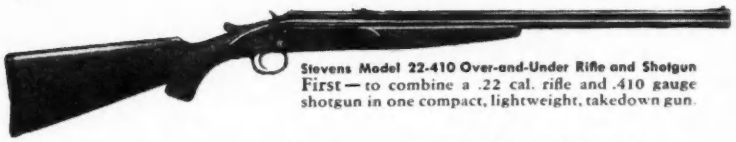
Stevens Model 87 Auto-loading "22"
First — to pioneer a .22 cal. auto-loading rifle in the low price field.



Stevens Double and Single Barrel Shotguns
Models 311-94 (Tenite-Stocked)
Models 530-107 (Walnut-Stocked)
First — to adapt beautiful, durable *Tenite* for stocks and forearms on medium priced shotguns.



Stevens Model 59 .410 Bolt Action Shotgun
First — to produce a bolt action, tubular magazine shotgun in popular .410 gauge.



Stevens Model 22-410 Over-and-Under Rifle and Shotgun
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Marlin Model 39A .22 caliber, Lever Action Tubular Magazine	50.45
Ithaca Model 37 Shotgun, 12 gauge, 30 inch full or 28 inch modified	83.50
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Field Grade	96.10
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Colt Government Model .45 caliber Automatic Pistol	65.00
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Drybak Target Shooters Coat	10.00
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Brauer Bros. Sheepskin Rifle Cases	8.50
Same for Rifle with Telescope	10.50

TARGET SCOPES

Unertl Small Game Scope, 4 & 6 power	$ 40.00
Unertl Varmit Scope, 6 & 8 power	75.00
Unertl Target Scope, 1 inch objective, 8 & 10 power	58.00
Unertl Target Scope, 1¼ inch objective, 10 & 12 power	78.00
Unertl Target Scope, 1½ inch objective, 10, 14 and 20 power	90.00
Unertl Target Scope, 2 inch objective, 10, 15 and 20 power	125.00
Litschert "Targeteer" Junior Scope, ⅞ inch objective	54.50
Litschert "Targeteer" Senior Scope, 1½ inch objective	89.50
Fecker, Target Scope, ¾ inch objective, 4.5 and 6 power	52.50
Fecker Target Scope, 1⅛ inch objective, 8 and 12 power	62.50
Fecker Target Scope, 1¼ inch objective, 8, 10 & 12 power	70.00
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Fecker Target Scope, 1⅝ inch objective, 10, 12.5, 16 & 20 power	98.50
Fecker "Woodchucker" Scope, 1.2 inch objective 4.5, 5.5 & 7 power	62.50

HUNTING SCOPES

Weaver K2.5, 2½ power	37.50
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Weaver J2.5, 2½ power	22.50
Weaver J4, 4 power	27.50
Weaver G4, 4 power	9.75
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Wollensak 6x30 Binocular	90.00
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(Continued from page 4)

"AMERICAN FIREARMS"

Watkins Glen, N. Y.

Editor:

In the review of the book, *American Firearms*, by Stephen Van Rennselaer (RIFLEMAN, March) there has been inserted in italics "copies available from Mrs. Van Rennselaer, 330 Speedwell Ave., Morristown, N. J., $5.00." This is greatly in error, as we alone sell the trade edition, direct from here, or through recognized bookstores. Perhaps you intended to refer to the $10.00 deluxe edition which is available from Mrs. Van Rennselaer.

R. SUNDERLIN, Mgr.
Century House
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BOLT HANDLES

Green Bay, Wis.

Editor:

You will probably hit the ceiling when you read the following. I made an error in one of the measurements in my article ("This Business of Bolt Handles," March). In the measurement for that bolt-holding jig 5/8-inch is given three times. This should read 11/16 inch. I did not notice the error until last Saturday when taking measurements for a new jig. I had the first one made up and the maker told me he had used a 5/8-inch reamer but he must have made a mistake since the hole measures 11/16 inch which fact many readers will take great pleasure in pointing out. The 5/8-inch measurement will work out but not as well as a proper sized hole.

CHARLES GOLUEKE

LENS COATING

Chicago, Ill.

Editor:

Orchids to Dean Lyon for a clear, readable account of lens coating (RIFLEMAN, March). More of our writers should take his cue in their presentations of highly-technical developments.

One minor phase was not discussed, although it was mentioned some time ago in the Dope Bag. Customers are apt to be badly annoyed by the appearance of scratches on lenses which they have had coated. Don't blame the man who did the coating. Those scratches were there all the time! Minor scratches (which do little harm, incidentally) do not show up prominently on an uncoated lens. But have that lens coated, and any tiny abrasions on it will show up like a sore thumb!

WILLIAM ABRAMS.

ANACHRONISTIC NOSTALGIA

Dania, Fla.

Editor:

Funny, those Police Gazette illustrations in "Coaching the Dryden" (RIFLEMAN, February). The story is circa 1904. The uniforms are from Marching through Georgia. The rifles are Model 1898. They are belching smoke from smokeless cartridges. The bloke with the field glasses beyond the spotting scope should do it elsewhere. The recumbent guy in the foreground is a contortionist; it's easier to press the trigger with the thumb. The 1904 rule was prone, with head toward target. The fierce left eye of the proner on page 20 shows he's just had a bite or has ants in his pants. He has to do without a sling; needs it for his haversack, always worn when proning.

It's still funny. Do it again, Daddy!

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Incidentally . . .

Once a month we receive a letter from a reader in Oklahoma name of Bill Appleby. It invariably starts out like this:

Poal Catt Crick Oklahoma

Since I have bin laid up hear with this Coronary Trombosis and Angina Pectorous I think Ole Dock calls it I aint rightly bin mutch good fer anything and I dont go down to the General store and P.O. like I usta do all the time to listen to them fellers down thear set and shoot a littel Hot aire. A bunch of them fellers come up yestiddy to see me and wanted me to write to you. I am just a layin here a telling it to my old woman an she writes it down as we go. Them fellers sed they figgered it was a good idee to get that woman with the typewriter to fix it up so you could read it better . . .

That introduction off his chest, Bill Appleby proceeds to take the hide off the current issue of the RIFLEMAN, thoroughly and unmercifully. Special target of his Oklahoma wit is Elmer Keith. Appleby is beautifully impartial in his criticism, otherwise, and lashes out pretty generally at RIFLEMAN authors as a group. But Keith sends his blood pressure soaring. As a matter of fact, we were kind of worried here for a while. Seemed like another Keith article might push Bill Appleby clean off the earth, what with his blood pressure and coronary thrombosis and all and maybe we would be responsible somehow.

☆ ☆ ☆

Bill Appleby's last letter sort of got us. After all of these months of signing himself *as ever your friend Bill Appleby (X) His mark,* which led us to believe that here, finally, was an honest, homespun sort of critic who couldn't read or write but who still managed to give us the benefit of his practical get-in-there-and-do-it-yourself slants, he let us down. Appleby is a fake! Appleby is an expert-in-disguise! A sheep in wolf's clothing!

The illiterate Appleby is quoting ballistics. *So far as he knows,* says Appleby, *the machine gun they shott with from the air plane had about 2700 mv and maybe a 12 twist and everything uncle sam owned had a ten inch twist regardless of what it needed or should have had I figger when you shot at 2700 feet per second the ten inch was o.k. but the way he looked at it when the air plane was goin as fast as a pistol bullet say about 800 feets per second and the bullet left at 2700 feet per second . . .* and so on and on. Appleby even sent a ballistic graph to go with it, full of wiggly lines and funny-looking symbols.

That did it. As far as we are concerned, Keith goes back in the magazine, whether Bill Appleby's blood pressure suffers or not. As a matter of fact, Appleby probably hasn't got blood pressure *or* thrombosis. It's another of the faker's low tricks.

☆ ☆ ☆

We'll just have to remember Bill Appleby as he was, and sort of ignore the fact that he turned on us and showed his true colors. Like the time he took Al Barr apart for using nice new razor blades in tests of rust preventives. Didn't we know, asked Appleby, that razor blades are made of specially rust-resistant steel and that only a fool would deliberately try to make them rust. *It's time,* he wound up, *you fellers figgered out whether your a shooten or a shavyn.*

We're sorry to lose faith in Appleby. All of our other readers take us apart once in a while when we do something specially awful, but not Appleby. There was something homey in the way he tore into us every month, whether we'd done anything or not.

I reckon the only thing we can do decent like is to give Appleby some of his own advice right back:

I some times figger not bein abel to read shure saves a feller a heap of worry an he aint got no reason then fer not a goin right ahead an tenden to his own business like he should an keepen outa trobel.

Come out from behind those whiskers, Appleby. We know you.—J. S.

COVER

The Marine rifleman on this month's cover symbolizes the whole Corps—a fighting force that has taken Uncle Sam's new Garand rifle to its heart, tested it in battle, and now is readying it for long-term use as a peacetime training arm. Far from abandoning its rifles for a planeload of A-bombs, the Leathernecks are going to stick to their old, tried-and-true concept of tough, trained men and accurate small arms. For more about Marine Corps plans, see "The M1 and the Marine Corps," this issue. The Kodachrome was taken by ex-Marine Colonel Phil Roettinger on the Camp Lejeune (N. C.) rifle range.

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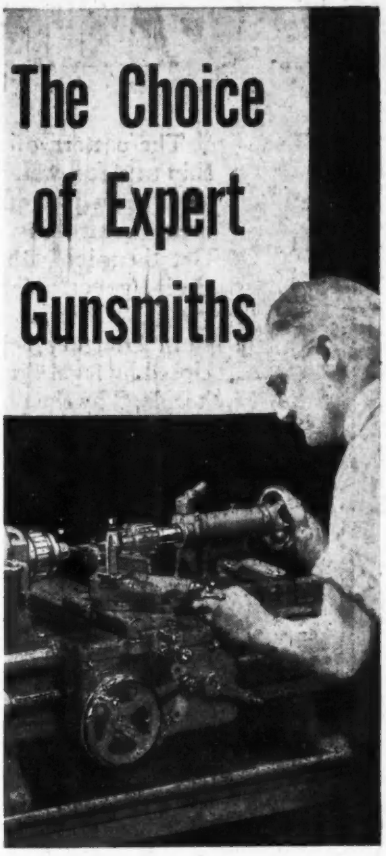

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PATTERN IN RED

The pattern of Communist action is now well established: Limit membership to a few well-disciplined zealots. Talk to and about "the masses" but keep them just outside The Party. Place key men in government departments controlling foreign affairs, national defense, and law enforcement. Get them into labor unions controlling transport, utilities, newspapers and radio, government employees—particularly police. Take it easy. Never expose the iron fist under the silken glove until the time has come to strike.

In Hungary before the silken glove was removed, all shooting clubs were closed by legal decree. All privately-owned small arms were taken into "safekeeping" by the police. In Czechoslovakia all patriotic citizens had been disarmed when the arms registration lists were seized by Hitler's Fifth Column. In both countries Communists infiltrated the army and the police departments. When the iron fist struck, loyal troops and police were either disarmed or held in barracks where they could not interfere with the Communist-controlled troops and police. Although all civilians had presumably been disarmed, thousands of armed civilian "auxiliary police" appeared magically on the streets—wearing Party armbands! A "peaceful" revolution is really quite simple.

* * *

A month ago a State Department official told a committee of Congress that 136 State Department employees had been dismissed during 1947 as a result of loyalty investigations. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, had previously told the committee that in checking 401,211 fingerprints of Federal Government employees, 8.5 percent had turned up with criminal records. State and municipal government employees would probably check out with a similar average record. People with a criminal tendency are people quite likely to become useful tools for foreign agents or subversive groups.

How can anyone, squarely facing the contemporary record, seek or support laws which would require American citizens to register their privately owned firearms with *any* municipal, state, or federal agency? Granting that most governmental employees are honest, loyal Americans, we must also grant that *only* honest, loyal Americans will register their weapons. Certainly the crook and subversive agent will not do so. Who will guarantee that the registration lists of arms owned by reputable, loyal Americans will not, now or in the future, fall into the hands of disreputable, disloyal persons? We have seen in America and in Europe the potent possibilities of unholy alliances between crooks and disloyal persons, inside and outside the Government service.

* * *

Americans have long worried about the *military* state. They generally fail to realize that it was the *police* state which set Mussolini and Hitler into power as it is the *police* state which now gives the Comintern its strangle-hold on Communist-controlled peoples.

As more and more prosecutors step into legislative and executive chairs or move from Bar to Bench, it becomes increasingly important to guard against a dangerous *police* state psychology unwittingly taking root in American statute books. General firearms registration fits perfectly into the established pattern of Communist action and is at the same time the typical example of *police* state psychology.

C B Lister

make mine a MAGNUM

HERE'S A LESSON FOR RECOIL-SHY MALES —FROM A 120-POUND CHICAGO GIRL WHO HAS PITTED HER .375 MAGNUM AGAINST THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME IN THE WORLD

By KRISTIN SERGEL

THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE for power. That's why I'll carry the .375 H. & H. Magnum.

The big Magnum beats them all. It has the accuracy and flat trajectory of other fine calibers, plus one great and exclusive virtue—its smashing wallop! That power means a quick, more humane kill; it means the punch to crash down a charge if it comes.

When you take your rifle into the field, you go to pick a fight. An animal can suddenly turn in fury to finish it. The showdown is on you—that instant. Ballistics are no longer data in fine print, but a crucial matter of personal safety. At this no-turning-back moment, a hunter's best friend is a .375 Magnum.

My own friendship for the Magnum didn't begin in any such spectacular way, nor did it start on the day I bought it. It began later on a small rise in the Rockies. I was there alone, munching blueberries and wishing my eyes could X-ray through the willows. The Indian and my husband were investigating the bush in a basin just below. Off to the side a branch cracked. There was a stirring of branches, and what sounded like grunts. I snatched up my rifle and pointed it toward the moving bush. My knees were shaking so badly that I had to sit down. The flashes of bulk behind bush resolved into a moose that came grunting and shaking his horns. He hesitated in a perfect calendar-picture position while I finally steadied down and got off the shot. Then he was gone. I jumped up, then nervously sat down, and then stood up again as my husband and the Indian came running up from below. As we moved over to look for a blood trail, we saw the white of horn where he lay. My husband started whooping, and the Indian said something about all that meat. The white horn stuck up like a weird tombstone, and my blood felt effervescent. One shot! The .375 and I had made friends.

Use all the Hollywood adjectives and you still haven't said too much for the big Magnum. I've had the good fortune to use it on twenty-one species of game, making fifty-eight kills. These animals ranged in size from small buck and mountain goats to rhino and elephant. The .375 did the job on them all. For me it perfectly fills the function for which it was designed by Holland and Holland. It is truly the all-around big-game rifle. Let me explain why I think so:

Taking the two extremes of big-game hunting, it is certainly the highest-powered rifle that a sensible hunter would care to use on deer, just as it is the smallest weapon that a sane man would use on elephant. But it is the one rifle that is perfectly practical for either. More important, it is the ideal weapon for the best hunting of all—the medium, in-between game. However, since I've mentioned the extremes, let me add quickly that while "more power than you need" has never bothered me, I don't for a moment suggest the .375 for the deer hunter. By the same token, it's my strong belief that the man who primarily hunts elephant should carry a

double such as the .577. My point here is that the .375 is one rifle with which you can bag your buck if you wish, which you will use mainly on such medium game as elk, moose, and bear, and with which you are adequately equipped with all the advantages of a familiar weapon should you some day take the dream trip after lion, rhino, and elephant. Add it up yourself, and you'll get the same answer—a practical weapon for any animal that walks the earth.

The big Magnum is not only versatile in the sense that it can deal with a great variety of game. It can be a close-range bush and timber rifle and a superb long-range stalking weapon for plains and mountain shooting. Use the heavy 300-grain bullet in the bush, and when you go to the mountains slip in the flat-shooting 270-grain bullet. Many people are so used to associating a bean-bag trajectory with any heavy bullet that they don't realize what an excellent long-range cartridge this is. Even at 300 yards, the midrange trajectory of the 270-grain bullet is only a negligible half inch more than that of the little 150-grain bullet from the .30-'06. But what a difference the big bullet makes 'way out there!

The longest shot that I've had the luck to make was with this 270-grain bullet. A caribou came down the mountainside through a patch in the fog that bound us to our basin camp in the Rockies. We didn't dare go after him, for wisps of fog were already whipping by him, and might shut him from view at any moment.

If you've ever lived for six days on pancakes and soggy bannok, you'll know how badly we wanted that caribou. With the range guessed at 400 yards, I used the canvas bottom of a camp chair for a rest. The pause with the bullet in the air ended with a solid chunk. It looked as if someone had jerked the carpet out from under that bull. The way that Magnum bullet can reach out when you need it further emphasizes the superb versatility of the .375.

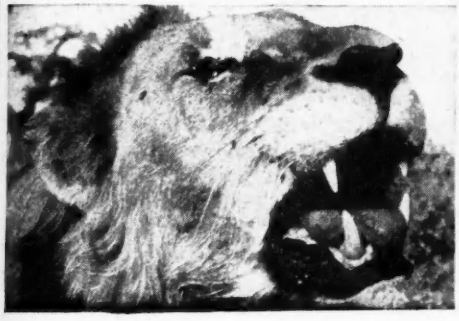
Let me make a flat statement: Any normal man capable of taking a hunting trip can handle the recoil of the .375 Magnum. What a misfortune it is that this worthless mental hazard should so influence hunters in their selection of a rifle. The excuses you hear to cover this fear are infinite. I've even been told that it is more manly to carry a small caliber. I'm little impressed by manliness that translates so easily. One expert has written that the .375 is only practical for "a few powerful and heavy hunters." My own weight is 120 pounds. What muscles I have were developed picking up after a two-year-old and doing the wash. I've fired nearly 2,000 rounds of .375 ammunition without the slightest hurt. However, I had a great advantage over most in this respect. Typically, the man about to fire the Magnum trudges out to the rifle range as if it were the last mile. He forces himself to raise the rifle, clenches his teeth, shuts his eyes, and while every nerve in his body stands up on tiptoe, he yanks the trigger. No wonder he feels it! Who wouldn't? My own great advantage in this situation was that I'd never heard of the .375 before I fired it. I was too ignorant to have it "tear my shoulder off." Not having had the great verbal build-up, the recoil didn't bother me at all. I wish everyone could form his opinion in this way. Certainly I've had a tender shoulder after a long afternoon of target practice—especially when there has been lots of prone fire. But on any such afternoon one fires more shots than are used on an entire fall hunt. And, anyway, the .375 is not a target rifle.

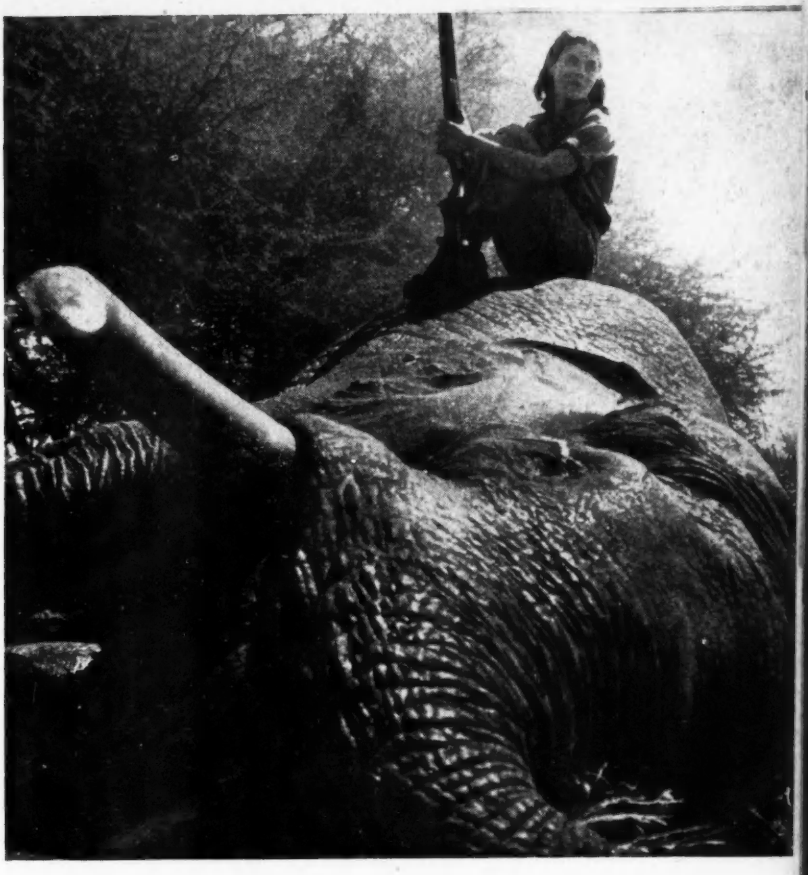
That statement that you never feel recoil when shooting at game is truer than you think. Once I accidentally fired both barrels of a double .470 at a charging animal, and was not even aware that the second barrel had been discharged. I was frantically trying to get off what I thought was the second shot. I don't mention this to suggest that I'm strong, for that's not the case. It's just another example of what even a slight shoulder can absorb when it isn't tingling with anticipation.

You can prove this to yourself right at home with a special sort of target practice. My husband used to roll a heavy barrel down a steep incline at me. I'd try to empty the magazine into the careening barrel and then leap out of the way at the last moment. You can do that all day and never feel it. Try it yourself. Of course, the best test of all is in the field. When you reach a climax of your hunt and the adrenalin pours through your system, the recoil boogy means less than nothing. All that matters is your rifle's ability to do the job. When you pull the trigger of your .375 under such circumstances, all you feel is the firm slap of a friend that says, "I'm right with you—we're in this together."

The other favorite argument against the use of the .375 goes like this: "It takes a vital hit to kill an animal, and if you miss the vital area it doesn't matter how powerful a rifle you use." The implication that follows this is, "Therefore, why carry a cannon?" The difficulty in answering this argument is that the statements it contains are true. However, the implied conclusion is both superficial and misleading. Yes, it takes a vital hit to kill your game—all the more reason for carrying a powerful weapon. Somehow the easy hypothetical shots of ballistic arguments seldom present themselves in the field. There you are suddenly confronted by all the factors that these indoor discussions forget. You're forced to shoot your game through a great tangle of twigs and bush. If that isn't the case, he's across the canyon with a stiff crosswind blowing. The game seldom offers that broadside shot, and more often than not he's running directly away from you. The high-speed, lightweight bullet can ricochet off a twig, or blow up in a rump or on a shoulder. It takes a heavy bullet to smash through bush, bone, and muscle to the vital area where it matters. I watched a friend's heart break when eight bullets from his .30-'06 couldn't stop a big goat from pulling himself off a ledge. When the old billy stopped rolling, he was a bloody mess without a head. I could see then why you hear so much about the goat's ability to absorb lead. But it all depends on the dose. Even with my very average shooting, the .375 has dropped them easily. One 300-grain bullet drove all the way through one—in from the rump and out the neck. The fact that the goat was walking away from me made no difference, for no matter how he stood, the .375 had the power to drive to his heart. Thus, in the face of actual hunting conditions, the .375 has a greater practical accuracy, and with it the

KRISTIN SERGEL never had a rifle in her hands until she was nineteen. Today, at the "ripe old age" of 23, her big-game record includes 21 species, with 58 kills to her credit. No "born hunter," Mrs. Sergel tactfully admits that her husband (vice-president of Chicago's 60-year-old Dramatic Publishing Company) taught her to shoot. An enthusiastic sportsman, he started her out with the big .375, and has accompanied her on trips to Africa and the Northwest. Except for hunting, Mrs. Sergel devotes full time to her family —which includes two youngsters, aged 2 and 3½ years. The Sergels are already planning a 1949 trip, which will keep them in Africa for nearly a year.





This is what Kristin Sergel calls "the proof of the pudding" . . . lion, elephant and (upper left) greater kudu. These and many other trophies secured in Africa and the Northwest are evidence enough that, for her, at least, the .375 H.&H. is the perfect choice for big game

power to punch to the vitals from any angle with a humane and sudden kill. The truth of the quoted argument is just another reason for using the more powerful caliber.

But what if you miss the vital area? To me, it's a self-evident fact that the .375's four thousand odd pounds of energy will better anchor the game, or at least slow it enough for you to get in the finishing shot. And don't overlook the Magnum's ability to deal with the charge that may result from a poorly placed shot. That's the most vicious charge of all, for the beast has been rendered partially shockproof by his wound. The explosive effect of a high-speed bullet means nothing then. You need a heavy slug that will plow through and smash bones. You need to break a shoulder; throw the beast off balance. That's when you love your .375. It doesn't jab the rapier thrust of a small bore. It smashes like a club. It buys time for you to reload and then shoot again.

But you're asked, "Why not snap a shot into the oncoming animal's brain? Even a small bullet there puts them down instantly." Yes, it does. There's a breed of steel-eyed hunter without nerves who can calmly do just that. However, in such circumstances, I'm too frightened and excited to stake my life on my ability to place that quick, sure shot. I even have doubts as to the ability of the ice-water, don't-give-a-damn sportsmen to do such deadly work with puny calibers under some of the situations with which a hunter can be faced today. It's true that many great hunters of the past have made hundreds of kills on dangerous game with small-bore weapons. But these were great hunters and great shots who spent most of their lives at it. The game was numerous and unwary. It could usually be taken under the most favorable conditions. Today the game is fewer, shyer, and retreating into the thickest country. In some of our own western areas, the slam of a car door seems to send the game over the next two mountain ranges. In Africa, the movement into thick bush is even more pronounced and the trend toward heavier rifles almost universal. In considering the great kills of the past, and recommendations based on them, these changes that have taken place must be borne in mind.

"If an elephant charges," they used to advise, "aim at the third wrinkle down on his trunk and you'll surely hit his brain." The advice was good for the day when unwary elephant could be hunted in semi-open country. The charge I experienced was different. We were hunting the thick bush at the foot of the Rift Wall in Africa. Our tracker had just touched a dropping and whispered *moto*—hot. We edged forward with my insides feeling like an overloaded pressure cooker with a stuck safety valve. A calf elephant broke the tension with a squeal a few yards off in the dense growth. Then four tons of enraged Mama blasted and came. Her screams were such that I seemed to *see* the sound waves, and my stomach sucked up against my backbone. Bush and saplings slapped down toward us, and a tangle of vines and creepers with a dark mass behind it came down like a green wall. We shot into the mass, and it swerved. The third

Mrs. Sergel finishing off a rhino with her .375 Magnum. This is an enlargement from 8 mm. motion-picture film. The big animal was already down when the photograph was taken. Her husband, an enthusiastic amateur cameraman, took all of the photos shown on this and the preceding pages

wrinkle! I don't even know what that elephant looked like! With smaller rifles we wouldn't have had a prayer of swerving that charge.

On one occasion my husband, myself, and our outfitter were out in thick bush that you couldn't see through for more than a few yards. It was a swampy section at the foot of the Rift Wall. We unknowingly worked our way into a herd of buffalo. The only thing we could do was take up a stand on a small ant-hill and wait. We could hear the buffalo moving about through the bush on every side, but couldn't see them. We sweated with fear for nearly an hour before they showed themselves. Then four came toward us in a rush. They saw us. One swerved, and the other three charged. We smashed them with double rifles. Each shot would seem to crash them to a halt, and give time to reload. I shot five shots, my husband and the outfitter each got off six (a .470, a .450 No. 2, and a .577). The last big buffalo died four steps from us, with blood pouring out of his nose, rocking his horns back and forth while shivers went down his muscles as he tried to get up and kill us. We'd never have survived with .30-'06's, for instance, unless we'd hit them through the brain, but who could do that with three buffalo crashing through dense, tall bush? All we could see were dark shapes behind bush that was flapping down as they came. No, thank you—for buffalo and lion, the .375 is the very minimum rifle.

I tried a .270 on the tenacious wildebeest and the tough zebra, and it seemed as if I were firing blanks. The moment I went back to my .375 the picture changed instantly. I was trying to get a lion, but they were clinging to the tall grass and rocky ridges, and the only hope of getting a shot was to bait. Let me try to describe exactly what it's like to tackle a lion with your .375. I went out in the evening and dropped several wildebeest and zebra. The boys would pull two together, open them up, and then carry out a piece of meat for a quarter mile and drag it in. As they made these blood trails, others would cover the bait with thorn bushes to keep the lions from feeding too fast and being gone at dawn. Then back through the dusk to camp. During dinner a lion sounded off in the distance. It made me swallow a little harder. Then a night of intermittent sleep, ended by a boy bringing in a lighted kerosene lantern and a cup of tea. The white hunter was brushing his teeth, and as I came out peering at him through the glare of the lantern he asked, "Did you hear them?" I heard them all right. I wanted to think of a decent excuse for staying in camp.

Then a bite of oatmeal, and remembering to run a patch through the .375. (My zeal in oiling the night before had the rifle dripping.) I filled the magazine with four Winchester 300-grain Silvertips, and put another in the chamber. Bad practice, perhaps, but I wanted that possible extra shot. We started to walk toward the bait, trying to time it so as to arrive just as the sights could be seen. A few minutes later, the lion would probably be gone. The early morning seemed inordinately cold. My teeth chattered uncontrollably. Every low anthill looked like a black-maned lion in the grass. I tried the iron sights against a kongoni that stood staring at us stupidly. No use. I slipped on the scope. Now I could see a little. We moved ahead quietly—single file. The tracker's hand went up. *Simba.* Off safety. My breathing stopped. Now forward again. A misty gray detached from the mass that was the bait and started off. "Go on." I could barely see the flat-top post against it. "Go on—SHOOT!" I pulled the trigger. There was a surprised roar and the lion spun around. I'd hit him in the back leg. He stretched out toward us like a rubber band. I aimed at his head and missed completely. Then he was in a patch of tall grass, cutting through it like a shark. For all we could see of him he might have been in a tunnel, and yet coming all the time.

This was the moment for which that particular .375 was created, and this was the moment it took charge. A shot on his shoulder threw him up and sideways, and as he bucked up again a last Silvertip smashed his spine. It was over. I hadn't needed the fifth bullet after all. Grinning Masai were appearing from nowhere, offering gourds of milk. The sun was up, and it was suddenly a warm and beautiful day. But as I looked at the muscular massiveness of that lion, I realized how different it all could have been. "Look at the big claws," called my husband. I looked and then I looked again at the incredible smash that bullet had made of the heavy lion spine. Holding my .375 then, I knew I'd never be afraid again.

As I said in the first place, there's no substitute for power. That's why I'll make mine the big Magnum. ◆ ◆ ◆

IN THE MAY RIFLEMAN: Archibald Rutledge deliberately tries to provoke an argument with the fellows who hunt deer with a rifle. He says that a shotgun *is* a fitting and proper gun for deer hunting and states exactly why he has reached that conclusion. There will be a picture story on the manufacture of Western Super-Match .22 rimfire ammunition. The RIFLEMAN's annual survey of small game laws will round out the issue.

CHOOSING A BINOCULAR

THE FIRST OF THREE INFORMATIVE ARTICLES . . . HOW TO SELECT A BINOCULAR FOR YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS AND, ABOVE ALL, WHAT BINOCULAR NOT TO SELECT

By ROBERT J. and ELSA REICHERT

EVER EQUIPMENT-MINDED, AMERICANS have become more so since the war. They are all eager to benefit from new developments. Binoculars are no exception, and new American models have achieved an optical efficiency that was previously unheard of. But to take advantage of these improvements—and to procure the glass best suited to his purpose—the prospective buyer must have an understanding of binoculars and their uses.

Which type will do the best job: The heavy, bulky 7X50 with oversize objective lenses, the little 4.3-ounce 6X20, or some model between these rather extreme types? You can determine the model you need from the manufacturer's specifications, *if* you know how to interpret them, and understand what the specifications mean in terms of service in the field. It is important to be able to detect the truth, the untruth, or the absurdity of advertising statements. This is easily done if you know how to check claims against actual performance. Then you can be sure that the binocular you select will do its job and be the best choice for that job.

First, consider magnification. Surprising as it may seem, the lowest magnification adequate for the job is usually the wisest choice. Through a 6-power binocular an object appears as it would to the unaided eye at one-sixth the distance. A deer at 1,200 yards will appear to be 200 yards away. If you can see the desired details at 200 yards without binoculars, then a 6X glass will meet your needs.

It is a common misconception that higher power increases the amount of detail that can be seen. This is true *if* the binocular is mounted on a tripod and used in adequate light. In actual offhand use, the disadvantages of powers higher than 8 usually offset the benefits. A comparison of a 6X and a 12X glass (with same type ocular system) shows the 12X to have the following disadvantages:

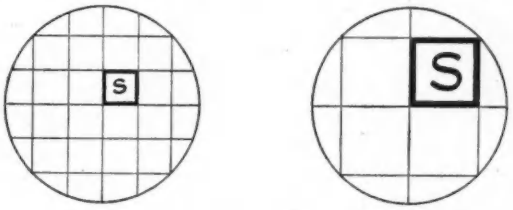
1) Approximately one-quarter (not one-half) the field of view, as shown by the two circles reproduced on this page;

2) One-quarter the image brightness. Referring again to the two circles, notice the square marked "S." The total amount of light coming from this square and entering the objective lens is the same, whether viewed through a 6- or 12-power glass. Through the higher power the light is merely "spread thinner" over the enlarged view—much as a given quantity of jam is spread only one-quarter as thick over four square inches of bread as over one square inch. Thus, seen through the 12X glass, the image is only a quarter as bright as it would be through the 6-power;

3) Unsteadiness of image, due to hand vibration. The vibration will be magnified along with the image.

4) Increased bulk and weight.

Second, consider the brightness of the image. This depends upon two factors, of which only the first—relative brightness—is normally listed in manufacturers' catalogue specifications. Since the second factor—light loss—is equally important, we coin the term *relative light efficiency,* or RLE, to include both factors.



Comparison of area seen through binoculars with same type ocular system but of different magnification. Area seen through 12 power (right) is quarter that seen through 6 power. Light entering lens is also reduced in same ratio

Relative brightness (sometimes incorrectly termed "relative illumination") refers to the relative size of the *exit pupil.* Hold your binocular about eight inches from your eyes, tilted toward the sky. The circle of bright light seen in the ocular (eye) lens is the cross-section of the beam of light emerging from this lens. This is the exit pupil. Its diameter (in millimeters) equals the *effective* diameter of the objective lens (in millimeters) divided by the magnification. The square of this quotient gives the relative brightness.

The second figure engraved on a binocular (6X30, 7X35, 8X30) represents the diameter of the objective lens. This figure does not always, however, reveal the *effective* (true) diameter of the objective aperture. In most French binoculars the engraved figure usually represents the "over-all" diameter of the lens, two or more millimeters of which are covered by retaining rings. The average French 8X30 is, therefore, usually an 8X27, or at most an 8X28. In low-grade French glasses, a diaphragm behind the objective may further reduce

its effective size; in one case a prewar "8X40" actually was only 8X28, affording a relative brightness of 12 instead of the anticipated 25. In all further mention of objective lenses, reference will be made only to binoculars in which the *effective* objective diameter equals the *stated* diameter. Bearing this in mind, it follows that the larger the objective lens and the lower the magnification, the larger the exit pupil and, therefore, the greater the relative brightness.

These three American binoculars afford the full size exit pupils called for by the diameter of the objective lens. Bausch & Lomb 8X30 exit pupil (top) is 3.8 mm, Universal 6X30 (center) is 5 mm, and the exit pupil of the Sard 7X50 glass (below) is 7 mm. in diameter

Light loss refers to the loss of image brightness *within* the instrument. In new uncoated binoculars, this loss totals about 50 per cent of the light entering the objective lens. Causes of optical light loss are:

1) Loss due to absorption while passing through the glass elements. This rarely exceeds 4 percent and varies little for different binoculars. It can, therefore, be ignored when considering relative light efficiency.

2) Loss due to dispersive reflection and dispersive refraction at all surfaces where light passes from air to glass, or from glass to air. With ten light-dispersing surfaces in an average binocular, this loss is considerable—about 4 or 5 percent at each surface. It is this loss that is reduced by coating, so that only 1 to 1½ percent is lost at each dispersing surface.

In tabulating the brightness of the image, therefore, we will use our new term, *relative light efficiency* (RLE), and take into consideration not only the relative brightness, but also the important second factor of light loss.

For purposes of comparison, we have adopted the usual current model with 10 light-dispersing surfaces as our *standard binocular*. It is this instrument which is shown in cross section. In uncoated binoculars, the RLE depends on the number of such surfaces, as shown in the table on this page.

In binoculars where the dispersing surfaces are coated, the number of these surfaces has little effect on the RLE. The light loss from coated surfaces is small, and the relative number of dispersing surfaces can, for practical purposes, be neglected.

Coating, it will be seen, involves no structural change, merely a processing of the dispersing surfaces of the optical elements. (See "Those Coated Lenses," AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, March, 1948) This coating (usually magnesium fluoride) is very thin—about .000004 inch (¼ wave length of light). As no structural change is involved, smaller objectives, smaller prisms, and, therefore, smaller binoculars can today be selected for a required RLE.

Thus, although the RLE of a *coated* 6X30 or 7X35 (both 37) is less than the RLE of an *uncoated* 7X50 (50), it is adequate for many purposes for which a 7X50 was formerly necessary. The greater convenience of the more compact and lighter weight 6X30 and 7X35 models usually result in their selection for most outdoor use. They offer an ideal compromise.

The table also shows the sacrifice in RLE inevitable when higher magnifications must be used.

How can you tell whether a binocular is coated? A coated lens appears purplish when viewed at an angle. When you examine a new binocular issued as coated by a reputable manufacturer, and find an external lens surface coated, you can assume that *all* the reflecting surfaces are coated. However, instruments of less-dependable producers and war surplus assemblies may appear what they are not. In one instance, a 9X50 monocular (a current item) had some coated and some uncoated lenses, and another has turned up with one prism coated and the other not. As you cannot dismantle the instrument to examine the internal optical parts, you must in this case rely entirely upon the manufacturer's or dealer's integrity.

The same principles apply to rebuilt binoculars that have been coated. (See "These Hard-Coating Jobs," AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, January, 1946.) Sometimes only the ocular and objective lenses have been so processed—4 surfaces—giving 20-percent instead of 50-percent increased RLE. If you try to dismantle the binocular to examine it internally, you will probably put it out of alignment and cause other injuries. Your only safeguard is the guarantee behind the job. In examining a coated lens, do not worry about "slicks" or slight imperfections visible on the surface when viewed by *reflected* light. They have no effect on *transmitted* light, and do not in any way affect the optical efficiency of the instrument.

Type	*Model*	*Diam. of Exit Pupil*	*Uncoated*		*Coated*		*Field at 1,000 Yds. (in feet)*	*Relative Field*
			RB	*RLE*	*RB*	*RLE*		
STANDARD	6X30	5	25	25	25	37	445	2670
Uncemented Objective [1] w. reduced diameter [4]	6X30	4.3	18.5	17	18.5	28	390	2340
Single Prism [3]	6X18	3	9	9.7	9	13.5	435	2610
Single Prism [3]	6X20	3.3	..	..	11	16.5	432	2592
STANDARD	7X35	5	25	25	25	37	381	2667
STANDARD	7X50	7	50	50	50	75	381	2667
Wide Field [2]	8X30	3.8	14	13	14	21	445	3560
Avg. French [4]	8X26	3	9	9	9	13.5	330	2640
Avg. French [4]	8X30	3.5	12	12	12	18	330	2640
Wide Field [2]	9X35	3.8	14	13.3	14	21	381	3429
STANDARD	10X50	5	25	25	25	37	272	2720

EXPLANATION OF TERMS:

RB (Relative Brightness)—Specification listed in binocular catalogues. Equals square of Diameter of Exit Pupil (in millimeters).

RLE (Relative Light Efficiency)—Relative amount of light emerging from ocular lens. Equals RB only in *uncoated standard* binoculars.

Relative Field—Magnification multiplied by field (in feet).

STANDARD Binocular—Has two-lens ocular system (Kellner type), two-prism erecting system, and cemented objective lens whose effective diameter equals that engraved on the binocular. Light-dispersing surfaces total 10. This type made by all first-grade manufacturers, including: Bausch & Lomb, Hensoldt, Ross, Sard, Universal, Zeiss, etc.

NON-STANDARD FEATURES:

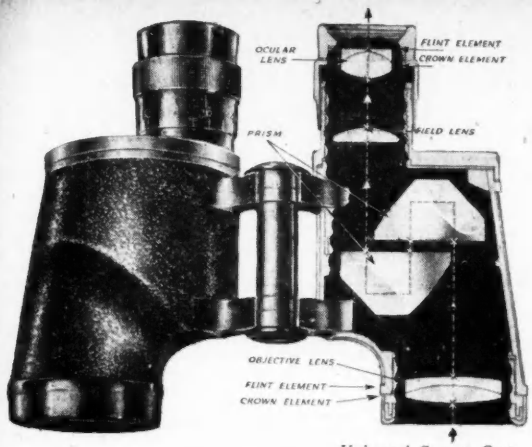
(1) Uncemented objective lens is used only in one American binocular.

(2) Wide field due to triple-lens ocular system (Erfle type). Has two additional light-dispersing surfaces, making total of 12.

(3) Single-prism erecting system used in some pocket binoculars. Has two less light-dispersing surfaces, making total of 8.

(4) Objective lens with effective diameter at least 2 mm. less than that engraved on the binocular. Found in one American and in average French binoculars.

Can a binocular have *too much RLE* for best vision? Yes, under special conditions. For maximum visual acuity, the light falling on the retina of the eye must be within a fairly limited range of volume. Under normal conditions, this is adequately controlled by the pupil of the eye. The pupil functions as the "window" of the eye—the opening through which light enters.



Universal Camera Corp.

A typical American binocular of standard design, with Kellner ocular system. Light-dispersing surfaces, marked with an X, are where coating is applied. In most standard binoculars there are ten of these surfaces

In dim light, the pupil opens wide, much as a window shade is pulled up to let in more light. In excessive light, the pupil contracts, so that most of the light falls upon the iris, and only a very small portion enters the eye through the tiny pupil.

When, however, the pupil is contracted to minimum size, and the amount of light entering it is still too much, vision can be impaired. Extreme examples are snow-blindness, and the well-known effects of looking directly into the sun.

Under normal conditions, the large amount of light transmitted by a coated 7X50 model (with RLE of 75), is within the range of maximum clarity of vision. However, for many daylight uses, it will give no clearer vision than glasses with an RLE of 37 or less. Observe a man's eye while he looks through a 7X50 in normal daylight, and note that the circle of light falling on his eye is larger than the pupil, as shown in the illustration on this page. The light falling on the iris of the eye fails to enter the pupil; it is not harmful, merely wasted. Only in very dim light, when the pupil of the eye has expanded to a size equal to the exit pupil of the 7X50 (7 mm.), is the full RLE of the 7X50 utilized.

When the light is injuriously excessive, filters of various types, colored or polaroid, may be used to reduce the light reaching the eye. A binocular for continuous use under extreme conditions (such as sun-lit snow) should be equipped with a filter attachment. However, for an occasional situation of excessive light, an even simpler device may be employed: Reduce the objective opening by covering part of it with an opaque disc. The size of the opening may be varied for changing lighting conditions.

This raises an interesting question. In such excessively brilliant light, would an *uncoated* instrument afford clearer vision than a *coated* one? Yes, but *not as clear vision* as a coated binocular employing the light-reduction device suggested above because of the other important feature of coated optics—*reduction of glare.*

In the standard binocular there are 10 light-dispersing surfaces. When the optical elements are uncoated, these dispersions, bounding from surface to surface, appreciably interfere with clear vision. The more light entering the objective, the more disturbing are these dispersions. When looking in the direction (but not into) the sun, the effect is that of "haze" *inside* the binocular, obscuring image detail. Coating reduces these dispersions. Through an uncoated binocular, details are obscured by dispersed light that through a coated instrument appear sharp and clear. Of course, this entire discussion of clarity of vision presupposes excellence in the design and manufacture of the optical elements themselves.

Coating, in short, is *never* a disadvantage. Its benefits, not apparent under ideal lighting conditions, are definitely noticeable under unfavorable conditions. Increased RLE helps most at dawn, dusk, or night; reduced glare most in excessive light, especially with light from oblique angles.

These considerations will help you to decide what model of binocular best suits your particular purpose. For very dim light, or for observing game in deep forest shadows, high RLE means clearer vision. Against this, offset the disadvantages of the larger model: bulk, weight, and higher cost. For most outdoor uses, a coated 6X30 or 7X35 offers all the RLE you can use, and the convenience of relative compactness and light weight.

Third, consider field of view—the area visible through the binocular. It is expressed either as the angle subtended by this area, or as its linear width (in yards or feet) at the arbitrary distance of 1,000 yards from the observer.

A common misconception is that the size of the field is affected by the size of the objective lens. This is easily demonstrated to be false. Look through a binocular (one side only) and note the width of the field. Then cover the objective with a card, through which you have punched a hole with a pencil. You have reduced the objective aperture, producing a dimmer image, but the field remains the same. Nevertheless, most of us have seen catalogues containing such false statements.

Kollsman Div., Square D Co.

In average daylight (above) wide beam from 7X50 binocular falls on contracted pupil, and most of light is wasted on iris. At dusk (below) pupil is dilated, and the full beam can be utilized. This is why 7X50 is ideal in dim light

The size of the field (for any given magnification) depends only on the *size of the field lens* and the *focal length of the objective lens,* and varies with their ratio.

There are two quite distinct classifications of field: *standard* and *wide*. The simplest way to explain the difference is to consider both for the 8-power binocular.

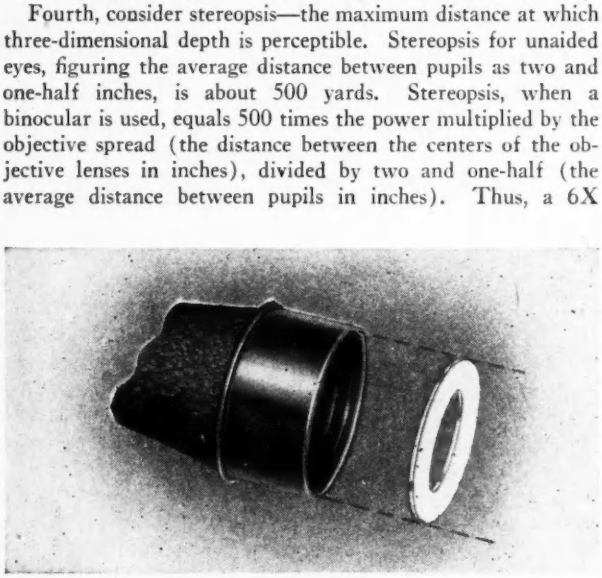
An 8X binocular of the *standard* type affords a field of 330 feet at 1,000 yards. The ocular system used (see illustration) is called the Kellner type, and consists of *two* lenses, an achromatic (cemented doublet) ocular and a single field lens. It is possible to increase the field by increasing the size of the field lens, but only *at the expense of clarity*. This is, therefore, never done in better-grade binoculars.

An 8X binocular of the *wide-field* class affords a field of 445 feet at 1,000 yards. The ocular system used is called the Erfle type, and consists of three lenses, at least two of which

are achromats (cemented doublets). This more complicated and costly lens system makes clarity possible over the entire field. Only such glasses can honestly be called "wide field."

To compare the fields of binoculars of different magnification, a simple mathematical device can be used: Multiply the field (number of feet at 1,000 yards) by the magnification. For this quotient we coin the term *relative field.* If the relative field is 2,750 or less, the glass is the standard type; if it is 3,400 or more, it is the wide-field type—regardless of catalog claims to the contrary.

Fourth, consider stereopsis—the maximum distance at which three-dimensional depth is perceptible. Stereopsis for unaided eyes, figuring the average distance between pupils as two and one-half inches, is about 500 yards. Stereopsis, when a binocular is used, equals 500 times the power multiplied by the objective spread (the distance between the centers of the objective lenses in inches), divided by two and one-half (the average distance between pupils in inches). Thus, a 6X binocular with an objective spread of four inches has stereopsis of 4,800 yards.



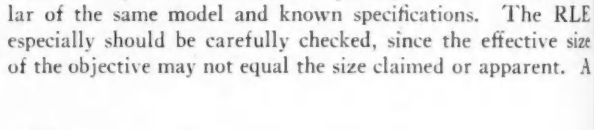
Under brilliant lighting conditions, too much light may enter binocular and injure the eye. This can be remedied by the insertion of an opaque disc

The foregoing analysis of binocular specifications illustrates their interdependence. Increasing one desirable feature tends to lessen another. High magnification results in a lower RLE and a smaller field, unless these disadvantages are overcome by costly changes in optical design. Extreme RLE results in considerable bulk and weight. The convenience of pocket size means a small objective with relatively low RLE, although coating makes the RLE adequate for most daytime uses. The only valuable feature requiring no sacrifice of any other feature is coating, which involves no structural change, but merely a processing of the optical elements.

The model best suited for a particular job becomes apparent from the specifications. When a state liquor-law enforcement commission needed glasses for the detection of moonshiners and tried out various models in the field, the trial was really superfluous. Moonshiners operate at night, and the ideal model for such work was obviously the coated 7X50 with its tremendous RLE of 75. Bulk and weight were minor considerations. Similarly, when a sportsman wanted a glass for hunting mountain goats, the ideal model was unmistakable. Being less agile than his quarry and also being encumbered by a rifle, additional weight or bulk was a handicap. Standard-size binoculars, even the lighter-weight type (from 16 to 18 ounces) would prove too bulky and cumbersome. The little 4.3-ounce 6X20 that he could "wear" in coat or shirt pocket would afford all the RLE required in such clear atmosphere; in fact, the small objectives would probably prove an advantage on the snowy slopes. This glass was a natural choice.

All of which answers the oft-heard question: "What is the best binocular?" by making clear that there is no *one* answer. Perhaps you need the 7X50, perhaps the little 6X20. For general outdoor use, however, you are likely to choose a glass of from 6 to 8 power, with the maximum RLE and field of view obtainable with moderate size and optical clarity. If printed specifications are available, examine them carefully. Disregard vague statements such as "wide field of view," "brilliant illumination," or "high light transmission" when unsupported by figures.

When no reliable printed figures are available, the most practical way to estimate them is by comparison with a binocular of the same model and known specifications. The RLE especially should be carefully checked, since the effective size of the objective may not equal the size claimed or apparent. A comparison of exit pupils will reveal the relative brightness, and a purplish reflection from the lenses will probably be sufficient evidence of fully coated optics. The field can easily be estimated by comparison, the most accurate result being obtained by looking through only one side of the binocular. When considering a binocular of unknown specifications, such care in ascertaining them is always a wise precaution. ◆ ◆ ◆



As shown here, field of view of an optical instrument may be expressed both as "angular field," and as number of feet seen at a distance of 1,000 yards

THE REICHERTS, under the trade name Mirakel, have been gathering data on binoculars for a quarter century. They designed and built their own test equipment; they have manufactured a binocular of their own design (including computation of optical system and production of the lenses), and have repaired at one time or another every make and type of binocular which has reached this country. Their experience also includes prewar visits to most of Europe's binocular factories. Their business is in Mount Vernon, N. Y.

OPTICS FOR THE SPORTSMAN: Last month THE RIFLEMAN inaugurated its series on optics for the hunter and outdoorsman with Dean A. Lyons' authoritative article on lens coating. Here, as the first of a three-part series, is the low-down on binoculars. In following studies, the Reicherts will discuss care and condition, and the selection of specific makes and types. In succeeding issues, watch for a series on riflescopes, and a discussion of those essentials—shooting glasses.

1948 Regional TOURNAMENTS

THE OUTDOOR SHOOTING season of 1948 promises to be one of the fullest yet. Already plans have been made, and locations and dates determined, for hundreds of rifle and pistol matches the country over. (A listing of these is being sent to all classified tournament shooters.) The United States will send teams to London in August to compete in the shooting events of the XIV Olympics. There is the possibility that the National Matches at Camp Perry this year will echo and re-echo to the firing of big-bore events for the first time since 1940. And all of the sixteen Regional rifle and pistol tournaments to be held this year are fact, though much work is still to be done before the Masters and the Marksman stroll to the firing line for the first shot.

The locations in which Regionals will be held this year, and the dates of all except one, are as follows:

SMALL BORE

North Eastern Small Bore, Meriden, Conn—July 9, 10 & 11
Eastern Small Bore, Altoona, Penn.—July 4 & 5
Mid-Western Small Bore, South Bend, Ind.—June 26 & 27
Middle States Small Bore, Des Moines, Iowa—June 26 & 27
Rocky Mountain Small Bore, Denver, Colo.—July 3 & 4
Southwestern Small Bore, Dallas, Texas—June 26 & 27
Pacific Coast Small Bore, Santa Barbara, Calif.—June 11, 12 & 13
Pacific Northwest Small Bore, Seattle, Wash.—June 12 & 13

PISTOL

Northeastern Pistol, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Sept. 4 & 5
Eastern Pistol, Quantico, Va.—July 3, 4 & 5
Southeastern Pistol, Jacksonville, Fla.—Oct. 9 & 10
Middle States Pistol, St. Louis, Mo.—July 16, 17 & 18
Southwestern Pistol, Shreveport, La.—July 2, 3 & 4
Rocky Mountain Pistol, Denver, Colo.—June 25, 26 & 27
Pacific Coast Pistol, San Francisco, Calif.—Date not determined
Pacific Northwest Pistol, South Bend, Wash.—July 10 & 11

Several changes were made in the conditions of the Regional tournaments by the NRA Executive Committee, in meeting February 7, that will directly effect competitors.

Regional boundaries that in previous years dictated the Regional tournament in which a shooter would compete, often at added expense and extra miles of travel to him, have been abolished. Now a shooter can compete in the tournament of his choice, though the Executive Committee ruled that no shooter may compete in more than one rifle and one pistol Regional Championship per calendar year.

This year, for the first time in registered tournament history, no Regional tournament will be fired in conjunction with a State Championship or any other registered tournament, though Olympic tryouts will be held in connection with as many as possible. The Regionals are being set up under direct supervision of NRA Headquarters. Advance entries will be required at all of them and entries will be limited.

The following events will constitute the program of Regional tournaments:

SMALL-BORE RIFLE

40 shots at 50 yards, metallic sights
40 shots at 100 yards, metallic sights
40 shots at 50 meters, metallic sights
Dewar Course, metallic sights
Metallic Sight Aggregate
40 shots at 50 yards, any sights
40 shots at 100 yards, any sights
40 shots at 50 meters, any sights
Dewar Course, any sights
Any Sight Aggregate
Grand Aggregate (totals of Metallic and Any Sight Aggregates)
Four-man team match, Dewar Course, metallic sights
Four-man team match, Dewar Course, any sights

PISTOL AND REVOLVER

.22 caliber
20 shots slow fire, 50 yards
20 shots timed fire, 25 yards
20 shots rapid fire, 25 yards
National Match Course
.22 Caliber Aggregate

.45 caliber
20 shots slow fire, 50 yards
20 shots timed fire, 25 yards
20 shots rapid fire, 25 yards
National Match Course
.45 Caliber Aggregate

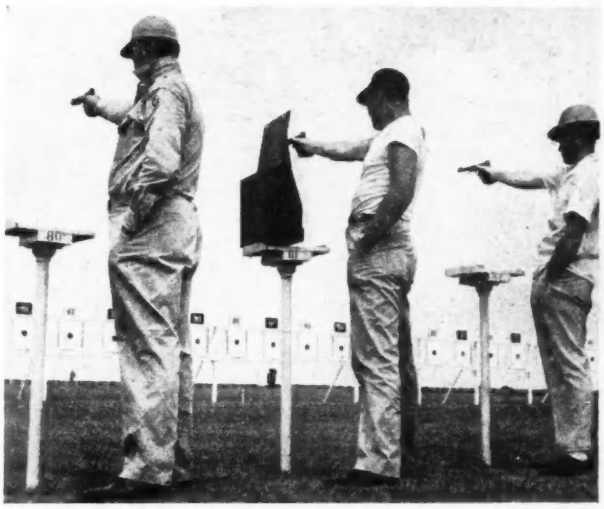
Center-fire
20 shots slow fire, 50 yards
20 shots timed fire, 25 yards
20 shots rapid fire, 25 yards
National Match Course
Center-fire Aggregate

Grand Aggregate (total of .22, Center-fire, and .45 Caliber Aggregate)
Four-man team match, National Match Course, .22 caliber
Four-man team match, Camp Perry Course, center fire

In the meeting at which the Executive Committee authorized the changes in Regional tournament conditions, it also set aside $12,000 for Regional awards. The Committee provided that at least six and no more than eight Regionals would be held for Rifle and the same for Pistol. A maximum of $1,000 and a minimum of $750 would be used to purchase awards for each Regional shoot, providing awards in all matches in the tournaments.

This year the sponsoring club or organization will retain all match entry fees to reimburse them for any expenditure made in preparation for the Regional tournament.

The Regionals will not necessarily be fired prior to Camp



Perry and no trips to the National Matches will be awarded Regional winners by the NRA. The dates upon which Regionals will be held extend from early June to the middle of October.

Competition at all Regional tournaments will be restricted to members of the National Rifle Association. Any competitor not holding an official or temporary National classification will compete in the Expert class for the entire tournament. ♦ ♦ ♦

HOW TO AVOID OLD AGE

IMMORTALITY FOR THE SPORTSMAN IN ONE EASY LESSON . . . A TALK ON SAFETY BY MORFORD GRIMES

EVER SINCE CLEOPATRA was nibbled by an asp, the art of preventing the onset of old age has been handed down from generation to generation, with occasional breaks in the tradition, of course, due to faulty asps and other reasons. Back in the days when Egyptian and Greek civilizations were in their glory, things were pretty primitive and the common people didn't have asps, which was quite a handicap. Asps were strictly for royalty and, under the auspices of Cleopatra and other famous boosters, enjoyed widespread popularity. For this reason there gradually came to be more common people than royalty, a condition that still persists in some countries.

But, as in everything else, the march of civilization has introduced improved methods. Several of the new techniques have chalked up enviable casualty lists and have been used over and over, although usually by different persons. Among them knives have had their points, while poison has been preferred by others. But both methods leave something to be desired. Knives have an annoying habit of folding up at the most inopportune times and cutting the prospective user. For this reason, many consider them unsafe. And the average stomach is hardened to such a variety of content that poison must be chosen with great care or it will only cause hiccups and gas.

War, the atom bomb, automobiles, and radio commercials offer a way out, of course, but their goal is quantity of destruction rather than quality or finesse of technique, and they lack the refreshing element of surprise that discriminating dodgers of old age insist on.

After exhaustive study of the subject, mostly objective, I've decided the modern, well-armed hunter has the widest selection of old age preventatives. And there are no class distinctions—snobs are as welcome to use them as lowbrows. Nor is any special training necessary to take advantage of them, the only essentials being perseverance, some sort of firearm, love of the hereafter, and a finely developed sense of stupidity.

The methods I shall mention are all approved by leading morticians but do not necessarily appear in order of their importance. If I offend some reader by not mentioning his pet way of demise, I hope he will realize that no malice is intended and bear with me. He might even find some new and fascinating escape from it all that he hasn't thought of.

First, though not necessarily best, is the policy of pulling a gun through a fence muzzle first. If practiced long enough, this way is bound to produce results. However, a certain amount of skill at it helps. Otherwise one may linger on for years, thus giving an excellent method a bad name. Some experts prefer to use a rifle, but a shotgun is better since flat trajectory and great range aren't required. Some hunters taking up this system for the first time seem to have a knack for it and achieve almost instant immortality. Others struggle along fruitlessly for decades and end up as doddering old taxpaying failures. Training among these failures and those hapless souls who carelessly go around with the safety on—an abhorrent practice encouraged by ignorant instructors—is essential. The safety should always be off. A wire fence may pop up at the most unexpected times and places, and a forgetful hunter-for-immortality might forget to move the safety forward before pulling his gun through the fence. Then, too, the average safety is poorly designed and the natural movement of the gun—muzzle-first—through the fence and stubbles tends to keep it on instead of shoving it off. This little oversight would be an easy matter for alert manufacturers to correct.

Almost any gun will work if one will follow instructions but pump guns and selective trigger doubles are second choice. The best bet is a good reliable double with two triggers. Both barrels of it can be touched off at once, doubling the chance of success. Only a confirmed cynic will insist on using an eight or ten gauge.

Another variation which tends to eliminate slight errors of aim due to buck fever is resting the chin on the end of the barrel and having Fido shinny up over the trigger. This is best done right at the start of the hunt, when it will prevent wet feet, colds, and other hunting discomforts. It also works well around logs and in other positions. About the only bad feature of this technique is that it is likely to make a dog gun-shy. One word of caution though—do not use a gun with old Damascus or twist barrels, as they are dangerous.

If still kicking at this stage, the determined hunter may give his genius full rein and use his gun as a cane or to poke over-shy bunnies out of old logs and muddy groundhog holes. This method has the added advantage of plugging up the end of the barrel so dirt won't get in. It saves a great deal of game every year. The worst feature about it is that unless a person knows what he's doing he'll botch the job, merely blowing off his hands and ruining the gun. This handicaps him for future attempts, and he is looked upon with contempt by more successful late companions. For this method the rifle is more effective than a shotgun, but it is best to steer clear of .22 rim fires and other low-pressure jobs. Any well-stuffed magnum should suffice and remove the need for tiresome repetition.

Still in the province of the rifle is the use of defective shells and souped-up handloads. Any experienced handloader with a spark of ingenuity can produce something fine and interesting by brushing aside the sermons in the loading manual and pouring in a good double handful of powder, topped off if necessary by a bullet several calibers too large. A swell job can be done by people with two heads, both empty.

Another solution not without merit is the practice of shooting out the occasional bullet that sticks in the bore. Even though a bullet is small this isn't as hard as it sounds. Any tyro can hit the first bullet with the second, even with open sights.

There is one procedure worth mentioning that I once had

an opportunity to observe personally. It consists of using cartridges that don't fire right away. One guy was sighting in his .348 on our range and the shells weren't firing. It wasn't long before he became irritated and started jacking the shells through the action as fast as they would go, tossing them out on the ground beside him as soon as they snapped. He glared at the shells and asked me what the Hell I thought was wrong. I had just stepped behind a little concrete shed, but from that vantage point I suggested that maybe they just weren't ready yet and might let loose a little later. He picked one up and turned it around under his nose appraisingly. Apparently that was just what it had been waiting for—not wanting to go off in a dark, lonely chamber—because it let loose with a soul-stirring boom. But the thing was a fizzle and all the fellow got out of it was a snootful of soot and a pained expression. Naturally this fiasco prejudiced me against such unreliable exterminators, and I've had no use for hangfires since. Usually they are little more than time killers, and you can kill time merely by reading this. Since loading companies have lately lost the knack of putting out such cartridges, about the only hope is of finding some old vintage specimens.

Admittedly, these few simple, down-to-earth hints have only scratched the surface of a subject of infinite possibilities. If conscientiously applied, however, they should provide a solid foundation. Only one word of caution—the writer assumes no responsibility for the welfare of any reader, either living or dead, who follows this program. ♦ ♦ ♦

OLYMPIC *News*

XIV
LONDON
1948

LOCATIONS and dates of most of the preliminary tryouts for berths on the pistol, rifle, and free rifle teams which will represent the United States at the XIV Olympiad in London have been determined. The locations of others are tentatively decided upon and the NRA is awaiting word from sponsoring clubs for the dates on which they will be able to hold tryouts in their localities. One or two changes in established dates and locations might be made within the next month but a complete list of all preliminary tryouts will be published in the May RIFLEMAN. For details of the registered tournaments with which some Olympic team preliminary tryouts will be held see Coming Events.

Preliminary tryouts for the Olympic rifle and pistol and free rifle teams are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Small-Bore Rifle

Wheaton, Ill.—June 13
Tulsa, Okla.—June 12 & 13
Willmar, Minn.—June 20
Meriden, Conn.—June 12 & 13
Milwaukee, Wis.— June 6
Sale Lake City, Utah—(Date not yet established)
Anaconda, Mont.—June 12 & 13
Oneida, N. Y.—June 13
Knoxville, Tenn.—(Date not yet established)
Asheville, N. C.—June 5 & 6
Santa Fe, N. M.—(Date not yet established)
Seattle, Wash.—(Date not yet established)
Lincoln Park, Mich.—June 6
St. Petersburg, Fla.—July 3 & 4
Harrisburg, Penn.—May 22 & 23
Michigan City, Ind.—June 20
Denver, Colo.—June 13
Portland, Ore.—June 26 & 27
Richmond, Calif.—June 5 & 6
Camp Robinson, Ark.—May 22 & 23
Dallas, Texas—May 15 & 16
Springfield, Vt.—May 23
Sea Girt, N. J.—May 29 & 30
Mt. Gilead, Ohio—July 3 & 4

Free Rifle

Denver, Colo.—June 19
Seattle, Wash.—(Date not yet established)
San Diego, Calif.—(Date not yet established)
Quantico, Va.—(Date not yet established)
Des Moines or Davenport, Iowa —(Date not yet established)

Pistol

Bensonville, Ill.—June 20
Seattle, Wash.—(Date not yet established)
Davenport, Iowa—June 13
Salt Lake City, Utah—(Date not yet established)
St. Louis, Mo.—June 20
Gainesville, Ga.—(Date not yet established)
Los Angeles, Calif.—(Date not yet established)
Minneapolis, Minn.—(Date not yet established)
Rocky Hill, Conn.—June 6
Portland, Ore.—June 20
Durham, N. C.—May 22 & 23
Harrisburg, Penn.—June 5 & 6
Anaconda, Mont.—(Date not yet established)
San Francisco, Calif.—(Date not yet established)
Buffalo, N. Y.—(Date not yet established)
Denver, Colo.—June 20
Tucson, Ariz.—May 16
Ann Arbor, Mich.—June 13
Louisville, Ky—June 13

Many inquiries have been received asking 'who can shoot in the Olympics.' The Olympic Amateur Rule for shooting appeared in the RIFLEMAN, March, on page 22, and the certificates mentioned there will be required of all competitors who compete in the Final Olympic Tryout at Quantico, Va.

Because competitors will have to travel four in each stateroom aboard ship, the United States Olympic Committee has been forced to rule that women shooters cannot try for a place on the 1948 Olympic teams.

Competitors may fire in as many preliminary tryouts as they desire. This change from the announcement in the March RIFLEMAN was made to enable shooters to fire more frequently and gain as much experience as possible before the final tryout. The change will be particularly helpful for pistol shooters who must compete over an unfamiliar course of fire. All scores from preliminary tryouts will be reported to the Olympic Rifle or Pistol Committee, and these committees will select the competitors to be invited to fire in the final tryout at Quantico, Va., over the week-end of July 10.

The courses of fire at each preliminary tryout will be the same. As nearly as possible they follow the courses which will be fired in the Olympics. Where changes have been necessary they were made to permit firing on standard ranges in this country and to permit the greatest number of shooters to be accommodated in each tryout. The courses as they will be shot in the preliminary tryouts are:

Small-Bore Rifle

Weapon: Any make, metallic sights, .22 caliber, maximum weight 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds). Sling permitted.
Distance and Target: 50 meters. International 50-meter, small-bore rifle target.
Course of Fire: 40 shots, prone position, unlimited fouling and sighting shots. Same general procedure as used for NRA Registered Tournaments.

Free Rifle

Weapon: Any make, metallic sights, caliber to be less than 9 mm., maximum weight 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds), prong buttplate and set triggers permitted. Palm rest permitted in standing position only. Sling permitted in kneeling and prone positions only.
Distance and Target: 300 meters. International 300-meter rifle target.
Course of Fire: 20 shots in each position, prone, kneeling, and standing. Forty minutes for each position. Five sighting shots may be taken prior to each position but must be fired in the 40-minute time limit. NRA standing (hip rest) is permitted. Position rules as stipulated in NRA shooting rules will govern.

Free Pistol, Slow Fire

Weapon: Any .22 caliber rim fire pistol or revolver. The arm must be safe to fire. Set triggers permitted. NRA shooting rules to govern.
Distance and Target: 50 meters (164 feet, ½ inch). International 50-meter slow-fire pistol target.
Course of Fire: 60 shots slow fire, fired in six series of ten shots each. Eighteen sighting shots permitted, before or between the series. Scoring will be done after each 10 shots. Three-hour time limit.

Rapid Fire Pistol

Weapon: Any .22 caliber rim-fire pistol or revolver.
Distance and Target: 25 meters (82 feet, ¼ inch). Olympic silhouette targets.
Course of Fire: The match will consist of twice over the following course: Two strings of 5 shots each, 8 seconds per string; two strings of 5 shots, 6 seconds per string; two strings of 5 shots each, 4 seconds per string. One shot will be fired at each of 5 silhouettes during each time limit. Targets will be fully exposed for each time limit. After a competitor has completed the course he will immediately fire it a second time, thus completing the match.
Scoring: Each competitor's score will be the total number of hits for the six 5-shot strings. In case of tie scores, the highest total numerical score for the 60 shots will rank first. If still a tie exists, an additional string will be fired in a 3-second time limit (total hits count first and total numerical score second).
Position: Standing. In the "Ready" position the arm is entirely free and stretched toward the ground, with the muzzle of the gun pointing at about a 45-degree angle from shooter. The competitor must not lift his arm into firing position until the targets start to turn toward him. (See "Shooting the Bobbers," page 26.)

KARL T. FREDERICK,
Chairman,
Olympic Pistol Committee,
61 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

M. A. RECKORD,
Chairman,
Olympic Rifle Committee,
1600 Rhode Island Ave.,
Washington 6, D. C.

Sincerely, Alvin Linden

GREATEST OF STOCKMAKERS, THE LATE AL LINDEN WROTE LETTERS THAT ARE MASTERPIECES OF "SHIRT-AND-DRAWERS" ENGLISH

February 24, 1938

DEAR MR. FINE:

I received the Winchester 70 and blank, also sketch. I would like to know whether you took these measurements from the half-diameter line on the action, which would be approximately where the forward part of the stock and forearm top line is located, or did you measure from the top line nearest the grip? Sketch would indicate that you did the latter, and it would make a difference of 5/16 inch in depth.

This stocking game is a very serious business and a sketch like yours will avoid a lot of misunderstandings that need never happen. You might think you spent a lot of time on your sketch, but you ought to see what a Detroit lad sent in for a .300 Magnum stock (Winchester 70 action and heavy Niedner barrel). He spent several evenings making a plaster cast which showed exactly *how* his cheek contacted the stock and *where*. He even rouged his cheek to show where it would be located in the standing position. Crazy? Maybe so, but no worse than others are. I've seen and heard of stamp collectors, anglers, bottle collectors (of *empty* bottles, mind you) who went to much more trouble to show just what they wanted, or had to sell or swap.

Now for the bad news. The blank is laid out as most of the dealers on this side lay them out—so all the cross grain gets into the grip, behind the receiver tang, and in the toe of the stock. The straight grain goes into the forearm, where it is least needed and where it can do more harm than good.

The receiver tang has a fine chance to chip unless I leave a big 'Dutchman Joint' behind it. That looks like Hell and should not be tolerated, even though it is called 'tolerance' on the Government Service stocks. No one will dispute the fact that the grip is weak and cross-grained, and no one can deny that the forearm got, by far, the best of the deal by being 'allotted' all the straight grain. If it were a baseball bat, a fishing rod, an axe handle, or a ski, there would be no reason for belly-aching. But the barrel supports the forearm so well that there is not the slightest danger of its breaking off, be it ever so cross-grained. Also, anyone knows how wood will warp in changes of weather, such as after getting soaked on one side—as a forearm gets, particularly if in a heavy rainstorm—and it does not take much sense to figure out that the straighter and stiffer the grain, the more force it can exert when it warps. And warping forearms have been known to raise Cain with carefully sighted-in and zeroed barrels.

No one can convince me that the slight saving the dealer made by cutting it the way he did justifies *spoiling* a blank. There are so pitifully few actual board-feet in a blank that the customer is entitled to some little voice about how the grain shall run in a blank, particularly when the advertiser claims to 'have saw-mill supervision' and 'cut them right in the grip'—which they do not. The dealers do not intentionally try to gyp anyone. They are merely following the old Army style of cutting blanks.

You were to furnish blank and buttplate. What type of plate do you intend to use? I will remove the Noske scope bracket if you want me to. Otherwise, I planned on running the wood over it, which can be done and is done on most custom stocks.

April 5, 1938

I have shaped out the stock and am socking the linseed oil to it. Soon as it has soaked up enough oil to get a good foundation for a finish, I'll wipe on some spar varnish with a rag. Just a thin coat because the idea is to fill the pores with the spar varnish, which is elastic and has enough affinity with the linseed oil to stick to it without letting go. The ordinary fillers, made up of turpentine and some ground pigment, do not fill the pores very well. Most of it rolls out when the surplus is rubbed off, and what remains after the turp has evaporated sticks to the wood about as little as clay filling does to a paved road when the water has dried out of the clay. You could put tar over the clay, but you'd still have powdery stuff under it.

The spar varnish which, as you know, is supposed to stand exposure to moisture quite well, being used on boats, is sanded or rubbed off clear down to the wood after it has dried—and it dries overnight in a warm room. The stock is again wiped with varnish, and the sanding or steel wool rubbing repeated

Alvin Linden inletting and shaping one of the stocks for which he became so well known. (Left) Scribing the blank before cutting. (Center) Removing the piece cut from the blank to permit seating of the action. Linden, shown making the preliminary cuts in the forearm for the barrel (right), firmly believed in tight bedding. He held that 'free floating' a barrel was the lazy man's way of saving himself time and work in bedding

until the pores are *completely* filled. It is very easy to see when this has been accomplished. As long as the pores are not completely filled, they will reflect the light clearly, revealing every pore at first. There will be less and less of this as the operations are repeated, until the wood is perfectly smooth. When that is done, the stock can be said to have a finish. Just a few drops of linseed oil or, whisper it softly, some heated spar varnish on a lintless rag (imitation silk is good) rubbed over the stock will produce a shine and a finish that will almost make a gun nut sob with joy—particularly if he is told that it is an all-oil finish or a 'London' finish. Practically, there is no difference, except in the length of time it takes, and the fact that this finish can be put on and dried so it won't feel sticky in hot and humid weather, which is practically impossible to do with linseed oil alone.

Linseed oxidizes or dries so slowly that unless each application is allowed to dry at least a week, it will remain sticky for years. Each application shuts the underlying coats off more and more from the outside air, and it is only natural that the drying out is slowed up more and more. No painter would think of putting on three or four coats of slow-drying paint in one day, yet that is precisely what is being done if one does not let linseed oil dry thoroughly.

The very mention of varnish on a gunstock is enough to make most gun lovers claw their hair—if any—and begin to look for a cheap rope to hang the gun butcher by his neck until he is incapable of committing any more such rape on a stock. Yet, the same cusses perhaps have a stock which they proudly show as a perfect example of the London linseed finish, not knowing that it has been finished as I described it. It gives me one Hell of a kick to explode this story just about the time some gunstocker finishes his lecture before a group of admiring gun nuts.

There is, however, good reason for condemning the varnish finish so often seen on some stocks. Particularly when the stock is first shellacked, after having been filled with the ordinary filler, the powdery nature of which prevents the shellac from anchoring itself into the pores of the wood. Usually, the grain has not been raised and sanded down either. Shellac is brittle, particularly when cold, and it is not elastic enough to contract and expand without cracking. Its main purpose is to seal the pores so a couple of varnish coats will cover the wood without soaking in. There is not so much objection to the varnish itself but rather to the underlying coat of shellac which lets go of the wood and takes the varnish with it, as often happens on woodwork so finished. It is possible to varnish directly on the wood, and keep on varnishing and rubbing off the surplus until the wood is completely filled and finished as finely as anyone could want it.

The durability of such a coat depends mostly on what kind of varnish is used. Sacrilegious as it might seem, I can't see

After making the preliminary cuts to permit easy removal of the wood, Lin did the actual inletting of the forestock with gouge and hammer (left), ishing the job with a piece of bar stock on which he had put a cutting ed

one bit of difference in stocks finished with the best mail-order outside spar varnish and those finished with the most widely-advertised and highly-priced stuff. I have tried most of them, and the varnish required for a stock is so little that the difference in price cuts absolutely no ice with me. But I always did hate to be given credit for being a bigger sucker than I am—and I am a sap most of the time, but hate to have it rubbed in.

Set a deadline for the stock's arrival in Baltimore, and I'll do my damnedest to get it to you in time. It has the depth of grip and the distance from trigger you wanted. Stock is about ¾ inch straighter than the factory stock, which won't be hard to take with scope-shooting in the prone. Cheekpiece is as thick as the wood permitted at the bottom and quite thick at the comb. You can take off a bit if it crowds, which I don't believe it will. The warping direction is about ideal, thanks to my cutting it exactly opposite to the dealer's ideas. The only dubious part about it is that I don't believe it is as dry as an advertising dealer should be compelled to have his blanks before he sells them.

April 14, 1938

Your new stock has been swabbed with, first, raw linseed oil, as much as it would absorb overnight. Then I rubbed on boiled oil, which is not really boiled but has lead driers mixed with it and which makes it oxidize or dry faster than the raw oil. The raw oil, being slower to dry, penetrates deeper into the wood than the boiled oil. Just now the boiled oil is about as sticky as taffy, and should be permitted to get perfectly hard and dry before any varnish is wiped on to fill the pores. It takes mostly time—the oil can be put on in about five minutes per day, but the damn drying periods can stretch for a year.

You ask what makes checking stand out. The only thing I know of that will do that is the *checking itself.* If it is finished up clean and sharp clear out to the edges and into all the corners, it can be seen and felt, and it will also *emphasize* the grain—if any—rather than hide it, as some believe it does.

Some checking is merely marked out, and is left flap on top. Such checking does hide the grain because the dirt and oil gets into the grooves and hides it there, and the small flats are entirely too microscopical in size to be able to show any of it. The result is that the checking does hide the grain—at least this type of scratching does.

But, if each diamond is sharply finished and

"THE OLD WOOD BUTCHER," as he loved to call himself, has been dead for nearly two years. It seemed impossible that there could be anything else from his talented pen. But two of his old friends have made it passible for RIFLEMAN *readers to have more of Linden's sage, humorous advice on stocks and stockmaking. The letters were written to Baltimorean Phil Fine as Linden "whittled" two special stocks for him. The photos were taken in Linden's little Bryant (Wisc.) shop by his old friend Art Vinje of the Wisconsin State Journal. Some were originally used as illustrations in Linden's second book, The Shaping of Inletted Blanks, published before the war by Tom Samworth.*

...cut away the excess wood at the pistol grip Linden used a turning saw ...ft), roughing out the edges of the cheekpiece with a gouge chisel (right)

Linden thought a sharp drawknife the best tool for dressing down soft, straight-grained wood (left). Scrub plane was used if he met a knurl (right)

brought to a point which cannot reflect the light—as the small flats can and do—the grain is emphasized to some extent. This is easier to understand if we look at the checking as individual pyramids, though somewhat elongated, usually being three to four times as long as they are wide. A pyramid presents four sides, and one or more are usually in a shadow, depending on the direction from which the light falls. (Get a camera nut to explain this and you will have to get a club to make him shut up.)

The shadow, or shadows, helps to show up the checking somewhat, but we must also remember that each of the four sloping sides of the diamonds or pyramids presents a cross section of the grain, exposing the end grain of the wood if it is straight grained. (Sometimes the grain stands on its head in one part of the design and sits on its tail in other parts.) The exposed end grain soaks up oil like a sponge and darkens accordingly. It is for this reason that an oil finish (even though oil is only used in the beginning to soak the wood) does bring out the grain better than it can be brought by first shellacking and then varnishing or Duco-finishing the wood.

The ordinary checking diamond, having a flat on its top like the sacrificial flats seen on top of the Aztec pyramids in Mexico, reflects the light from the top, particularly so if the stock is brightly finished. This acts like sunlight glittering on small waves in water, when all Hell can't tell whether one has a bite or whether it is the waves that makes the bobber (float) jiggle around. If you ever fished with a cane pole and cork for a float, you will know exactly what I am driving at. We will also agree that such checking does hide the grain in a stock.

The best way to fix scratches is by handling the gun the way a good fiddle should be handled, with reasonable care. You, being a piano player, are used to thumping Hell out of the keys, and probably use the stock to pry barbed wire apart. Dents which merely depress the wood without breaking the grain *can* be raised up again by wetting and heating. I soak some asbestos paper in water and lay it over the spot, then turn a blowtorch on the paper until it begins to turn black. It won't burn, but the *wood will* if it is kept up too long. (An electric iron will do, I suppose. But be careful so you don't get a good shock fooling around with wet hands and pulpy paper—110 A.C. can raise Hell sometimes.)

Your commercial stock is made of soft river-bottom walnut, which is softer than some pine wood, and it is probably finished with a shiny Duco or varnish finish. Looks fine—at first, but a scratch shows up like a headlight. It is best to remove all the finish and put oil on it. One fine thing about oil and the proper use of varnish as a filler, and perhaps a finishing coat, is that one can scrape and sand off a scratch so it leaves a light-colored spot, and then apply oil—and also varnish in its proper turn—until the finish again matches the original perfectly. This cannot be done with a bright finish.

December 19, 1938

Yes indeed, I remember thee well! Have often wondered whether or not the stock shrunk much during the summer and fall, but evidently it is still on the rifle and does not blow any sour notes just at the time the barrel is doing its very best in a funeral march for some varmint about 200 yards away on yonder hill.

Fitting a new barrel to it is a job that I would not entrust to anyone but the Winchester factory. There is far more to it than merely unscrewing the old barrel and screwing in the new one—though that is about all some of the 'expert gunsmiths' do. Having seen some of the results of such jobs on guns which have high boiler pressure, I stay clear of them. Always did have respect for any pressure which I could not hold down by pressing my thumb over the leak.

If you cannot remove the works from the stock, send the whole works to the factory and let their experts take it apart. They should be able to rebed the bigger barrel into forearm without leaving gaps along the sides. Don't be shocked if they advise 'floating' bedding instead of tight. It is ten times less work to simply throw the barrel and action into the stock. But, if you do permit them to 'float' it, ask them to leave scuppers or 'self-bailing cockpit' in it, so the rain can drain freely out of the forearm. Otherwise, it might swell and raise Hell. If they will not fit it snugly, send it here and I will do it for three dollars.

The factory wizards sort of sneer at us mossbacks in the back-woods, so I wish you would mention *your* part in specifying that grip. You'd be surprised to see how many customer-designers there are who absolutely forget the part *they* took in designing certain abortive-looking features on stocks by insisting that they be made just so-so. Fortunately, we wood butchers soon develop a strong immunity to slurs about designs—even if we are responsible for some of the ugliest parts—and do not lose much sleep sobbing over them.

It takes just about as much brassy guts to get a freak cheekpiece, pistol grip, or stock to 'take' among the shooters, as it did to take the 'belly rub' from the houses-of-ill-shape and develop it into more or less—usually less—'dacint' swing music; and to get them to admit that they got more enjoyment out of that than out of the old stuff, whether it was rifles or dances. *(To be concluded)* ♦ ♦ ♦

SHOOTING THE 'BOBBERS'

By LT. COL. N. J. RODEHEFFER, USMC

THE RAPID-FIRE silhouette (Olympic 'bobber') match which will be fired at the Olympic Matches in London this fall is virtually unknown to competitive shooters of this country. It is a practical course, fired at man targets, that has been shot for a number of years in pistol competition on the Continent, and consequently will be familiar to shooting teams from European countries. If the American team is to enter this match on equal footing with the European teams, some consideration of the suitability of American weapons, ammunition, and shooting methods to this type competition is demanded.

The Olympic bobber match is fired at a range of twenty-five meters (27.3 yards) on five silhouette figures, equally spaced side-by-side with seventy-five centimeters (29.5 inches) between centers, facing the shooter. (Plans for the construction of Olympic bobber targets were published on page 33 of the March RIFLEMAN.) Any pistol or revolver firing either .22 long or short ammunition may be used in the event. The competitor fires thirty shots over the course, in six five-shot strings, shooting twice over the course to complete the sixty shots which comprise the event. Two five-shot strings are fired in eight seconds each, two in six seconds each, and two in four seconds each.

At the shooter's command 'Ready,' the targets turn from the side position which makes them 'invisible.' He must fire the five shots, one on each target, within the time limit, at the end of which the target is turned from view. After the course has been fired, the shooter's score is determined first by the number of hits he made on the targets, then by the numerical value of those hits. Shots fired while the target is turning count only if the length of the bullet hole is less than twice the diameter of the bullet. There are no alibis allowed in the match.

Since the rules permit any .22 caliber pistol or revolver and either .22 long rifle or short ammunition to be used, the choice of a weapon should be carefully considered. Two characteristics are involved: Speed and dependability. Accuracy, which is of prime importance in the American style of shooting, becomes secondary. On the Olympic bobber the seven-ring covers the torso of the figure from hip to shoulder, and, since the range is only twenty-five meters, the pistol doesn't have to be super-accurate. It must be accurate enough, of course, to enable one to take advantage of the slower five-shot series to pile up his score. But since hits are counted before the numerical score, it becomes much more important to hit the target on every shot than it does to get tens on all the hits one does make.

This lesson was learned, to my sorrow, at the Matches of the International Shooting Union in Stockholm last summer. My numerical score was high enough so that, had I had every shot on the target, I could have taken second place in the match. I missed one, however, so that everyone with no misses ranked ahead of me.

But to get back to the two prime considerations, speed and dependability. The shooter must have speed enough to hit all five targets in four seconds. Remember that he holds his arm at a 45 degree downward angle until the targets appear, which means that it will take him over a second to fire the first shot and leave less than three seconds in which to get off the other four. Shooting at that speed, recoil becomes difficult to handle. Thus, it is apparent that the competitor gains a definite advantage by using the .22 short. But he must also remember the other factor, dependability. One jam or misfire and he is practically out of the match.

Last summer in Stockholm a number of shooters using shorts of prewar manufacture had numerous misfires and, of course, they ended up well down the scoreboard. With new American ammunition, I see no reason to fear misfires if one uses shorts, but there is a danger that the very light recoil of the shorts will cause the pistol to malfunction by failing to eject the empty case or failing to feed a new cartridge into the chamber. However, either the Woodsman or the Hi-Standard should work well with shorts.

Whichever pistol is used should have about a four and one-half-inch barrel and be of medium weight since the hand with the gun in it must swing up naturally, as though the finger were being pointed at the target. The first shot must be fired the instant the sights come into line. A heavy gun, while helping to control the recoil, tends to swing up too slowly and to be difficult to stop on the target so that the first shot can be gotten off instantly. The trigger should

Lt. Col. Rodeheffer 'shooting bobbers' at the International Shooting Union's World Championsh

An experienced tournament shooter and long-time member of the U. S. Marine Corps Pistol Team, LT. COL. N. J. RODEHEFFER, USMC, shot the Olympic bobbers at the International Shooting Union's World Championship Matches in Stockholm, Sweden, last year, while attending a meeting of the Union. Firing the course for the first time, he would have taken second in the match had he not missed the target once. Which should be indicative of what alert, well-trained pistol shooters can do, even without benefit of such training aids as this article.

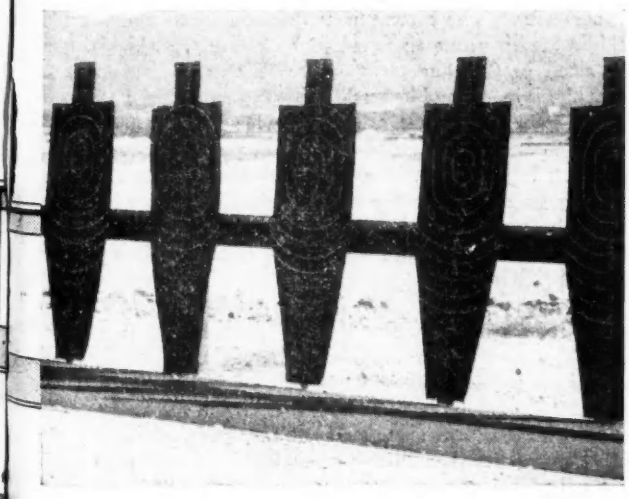
be of standard weight (two pounds). With a very light trigger, shots will get away from the shooter when shooting so rapidly.

Both the Woodsman or the Hi-Standard pistols must be modified to use shorts: A special magazine is needed, the recoil spring should be weakened, and the slide lightened. The present world's champion in bobber shooting, Mr. Valiente of Argentina, uses a Match Target Woodsman with the barrel cut off to about four and one-half inches and a two-ounce weight distributed along the full length of the barrel. He has cut part of the metal from the interior of the slide to lighten it and uses a special magazine to handle shorts. He told me that leaving the slide on his pistol locked open overnight weakened the recoil spring enough so that it would function with shorts.

A shooter can, of course, use the standard pistol and the long rifle cartridge. If he does, it becomes necessary to overcome the recoil, and about the only way he can do this is by adding weight to the gun. I used a standard Match Target Woodsman last summer and after experimenting taped a ten-ounce piece of lead under the end of the barrel. This made the gun so muzzle heavy that it was difficult to shoot slow fire. But the recoil was very slight, not enough to interfere appreciably with speed of sight alignment. The main disadvantage was that the muzzle-heavy gun was hard to stop on the first target. As the gun swung up it kept right on going. Because it was necessary to get the first shot off instantly, I missed the first shot on one series.

For the other four shots, I believe this combination of the long rifle cartridge and the weighted muzzle are just as good as the short cartridge. In fact, with the long rifle cartridge extra dependability is gained. But remember—in this game a shooter can't afford to miss, and the added advantage on the first shot makes it worth while to use the .22 short. By keeping the pistol in perfect mechanical condition, the possibility of jams will be lessened.

I haven't mentioned revolvers simply because I don't believe them to be suitable for this type of shooting. To the best of my knowledge, no revolvers were used in the bobber match at Stockholm last summer.



What about sights? The shooter must be able to line up the sights very quickly and doesn't need a very fine bead. A deep, wide notch in the rear sight, slightly larger than normally used on the .22, with a wide flat-top front sight would seem to be the answer. Speed and ease of alignment are more important than extreme accuracy.

The rapid-fire shooting stance used by most American shooters is satisfactory. The arm must swing up to the horizontal from the 45 degree downward angle naturally, then swing sideways across the targets. The centers of the two outside targets are approximately ten feet apart, so the arm doesn't have to swing very far laterally. In actual shooting, the shooter should observe which way the targets swing and always fire the last shot so that the target swings into the bullet rather than away from it. That extra fraction of a second may give him an extra hit some day. Since the direction in which the target swings into view is not consistent on all ranges, it is well to practice starting the lateral movement of the arm from the left and from the right.

The shooter will probably have a small amount of recoil even when using the .22 short. He must learn to return the gun to the horizontal after each shot with the sights aligned on the next target. This is not too difficult since the targets are equally spaced, seventy-five centimeters between centers. If the recoil is light, very little time will be lost recovering from it.

Once a shooter has chosen his weapon and ammunition, he must stress three things in practice. They are: 1) Timing, 2) keeping the sights aligned, and 3) trigger squeeze. Let's consider them one at a time.

Watch one of the better pistol shooters shoot timed and rapid fire, and it is evident that he has a definite rhythm for timed fire and another for rapid fire. A rhythm is also necessary in shooting the Olympic bobbers, but one rhythm for eight seconds, one for six seconds, and one for four seconds. The Italian team, which won the bobbers team match in Stockholm, used a metronome to help the shooter get the rhythm. The shooter placed the device beside him, set for the speed that he was to use next, and listened to it tick to get the rhythm fixed in his mind before signaling that he was ready. Of course, he couldn't hear the ticks while shooting but would continue the same rhythm and shoot whether the sights were perfectly aligned or not. It seemed to work—they won the team match. Their five-man team did not have the highest numerical score but it had only one miss, which was better than any other team.

If a shooter is to develop a sense of timing so that his shots are fired in a perfect rhythm, he must also learn to keep the sights aligned to prevent missing the target. At the speed with which he must fire, he cannot pause to align the sights on the target. They must be aligned when the gun swings up onto the first target and must stay aligned as the gun swings sideways to each target in turn. He can accomplish this by gripping the pistol so that the line of sight is a continuation of the forearm, and then keeping the wrist perfectly straight. This is where *(Continued on page 31)*

Insulate your INSULATORS

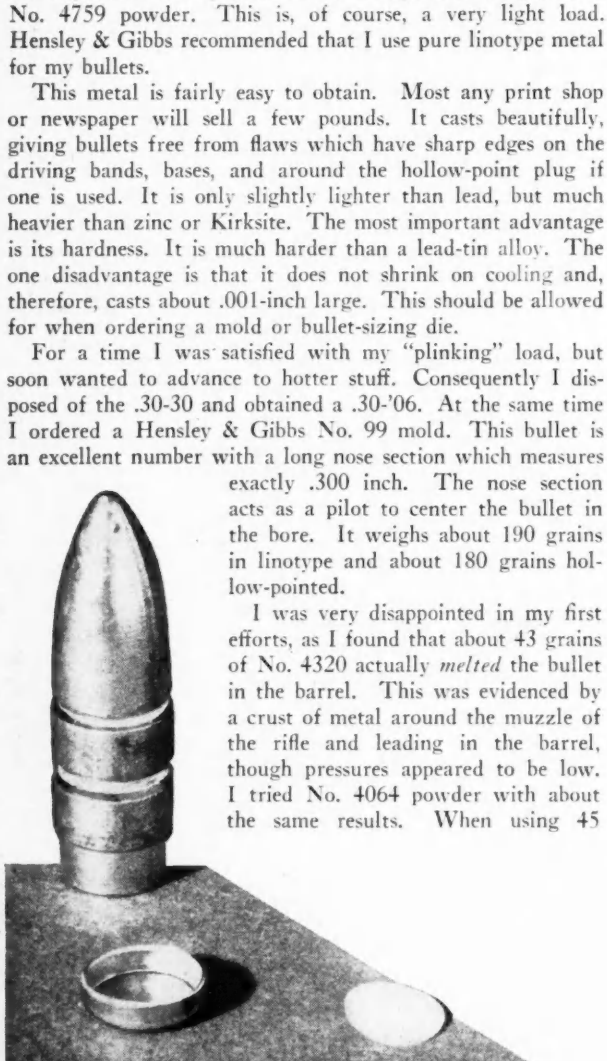
By JAMES C. McCARRIER

I FIRST BECAME interested in handloading during the war, because of the scarcity of factory-loaded ammunition. At that time I was shooting a Model 99 Savage in .300 Savage caliber. I presented my problem to Hensley & Gibbs and asked them to make up a mold for that bullet. They pointed out that the .300 Savage gas-check bullet is about the worst of the lot to reload. As a result, I disposed of the Savage and obtained a Model 94 Winchester in .30-30 caliber.

Hensley & Gibbs cut me a mold for their No. 33 bullet, which weighed 126 grains hollow-pointed. I found that this bullet performed very well at short range with 16 grains of No. 4759 powder. This is, of course, a very light load. Hensley & Gibbs recommended that I use pure linotype metal for my bullets.

This metal is fairly easy to obtain. Most any print shop or newspaper will sell a few pounds. It casts beautifully, giving bullets free from flaws which have sharp edges on the driving bands, bases, and around the hollow-point plug if one is used. It is only slightly lighter than lead, but much heavier than zinc or Kirksite. The most important advantage is its hardness. It is much harder than a lead-tin alloy. The one disadvantage is that it does not shrink on cooling and, therefore, casts about .001-inch large. This should be allowed for when ordering a mold or bullet-sizing die.

For a time I was satisfied with my "plinking" load, but soon wanted to advance to hotter stuff. Consequently I disposed of the .30-30 and obtained a .30-'06. At the same time I ordered a Hensley & Gibbs No. 99 mold. This bullet is an excellent number with a long nose section which measures exactly .300 inch. The nose section acts as a pilot to center the bullet in the bore. It weighs about 190 grains in linotype and about 180 grains hollow-pointed.



I was very disappointed in my first efforts, as I found that about 43 grains of No. 4320 actually *melted* the bullet in the barrel. This was evidenced by a crust of metal around the muzzle of the rifle and leading in the barrel, though pressures appeared to be low. I tried No. 4064 powder with about the same results. When using 45 grains of HiVel No. 2 the necks of the cases were tinned. I felt that I had not yet reached the velocity which would give the best accuracy, though I could go no higher without melting my bullets in the barrel.

About this time a close friend, William H. Dean, suggested using a paper or mica disc inside the gas-check cup. I poohpoohed the idea as not being worth the additional effort and proceeded to forget about it. He called me about a week later and told me he had tried it and noticed a definite improvement.

The gas-check cup has, for many years, been considered the only device for insulating a lead-alloy bullet. However, its actual effectiveness has always been open to question as the added velocity gained is hardly more than 200 foot seconds. This is, of course, worth considering, but it can be improved upon and I hope that I can prove this statement.

As far as I know, all gas-check cups are made of copper or brass (which is mostly copper). Copper has a very high heat conductivity, being surpassed only by silver in this respect. The gas-check cup as commonly used makes intimate contact with the bullet base, which has a low melting point. Is the base, then, actually insulated? Definitely not! Inserting a thin paper or mica disc breaks up this perfect thermal contact and confines most of the intense heat of the expanding powder gases to the gas-check cup.

I then tried coating the entire bullet with Aquadag and noticed still more improvement.

Bill then conceived the idea of mixing powdered graphite into cellulose acetate, dipping the entire bullet into the mixture,

. . . A SUGGESTION ON HOW TO BREAK THE PERFECT THERMAL CONTACT BETWEEN LEAD BULLET AND HOT POWDER GASES

and setting the bullet point down to drain and dry. The hollow-point bullet is best for this process, as it can be impaled on a small brad driven into a board.

The best source of cellulose-acetate is a product known as Duco Household Cement, which is sold in small tubes in most drug stores. The cement is too thick as sold and must be thinned with about an equal part of acetone, which can be obtained in the same drug store. The correct amount of graphite is best found by trial.

If the bullets are clean and dry when dipped, and are allowed to dry several hours, they can be pushed through sizing dies and into the cartridge cases with the insulator-lubricant still clinging tightly to the driving bands. Bill uses no grease at all on his bullets, with good results, but I prefer to give mine a shot of Ideal lubricant, since I size them in a Lyman sizer and lubricator anyway.

As an example of the heat insulating properties of this mixture, I once remelted a few of these "processed" bullets which I had coated on the driving bands only. When I dropped them into the pot of of molten linotype metal I noticed that the nose of the bullets melted almost immediately, but the base sections required several seconds to melt and *they melted from the nose end first*. After the bullets were melted I was surprised to see the cellulose acetate floating on the surface in the form of small tubes.

Some handloaders may take the attitude which I took at first and conclude that fitting the little discs inside the gas-check cups and dipping the bullets into the cellulose acetate-acetone-graphite mixture and allowing them *(Continued on page 36)*

THE M1 in the MARINE CORPS

By LIEUTENANT COLONEL R. D. HEINL, JR., USMC

With illustrations by Marine Corps combat artists

ABOUT THIS TIME of year, with spring again in the air, a curious cycle of behavior can be observed wherever U. S. Marines are stationed. Battered field hats are coming out of seabags; stiff and crusty shooting jackets are being patched up; shooting boxes are being reopened and inventoried; and the armorers can be found a-tinkering with trigger mechanisms and tapping at sight blades. The Marine Corps shooting season is on.

As in 1946 and 1947, so again in 1948 the traditional Marine Corps rifle and pistol competitions are being scheduled and fired throughout the world, from China to Quantico. Already, Marine competitiors from Tsingtao, Yokusuka, Guam, and all the island outposts of the Pacific have gathered at Pearl Harbor for the Pacific Division Matches, which were fired last month at Puuloa Point Rifle Range, amid the canefields and keawe trees just west of Pearl Harbor. At San Diego, they are getting the firing lines policed and the butts overhauled for the Western Division Matches, to be held this month (from April 19 to 24) at Camp Calvin B. Matthews—named for one of the shootingest Marine officers ever to "hold 'em and squeeze 'em." The Southeastern Division Matches will assemble Marines from Panama, Cuba, Trinidad, Bermuda, as well as many other points south and east, in Camp Lejeune, N. C., from May 24 to 28. At almost the same time (May 31 to June 4) the Eastern Division Matches will be fired in Quantico, Va., just as summer sets in, but before the chiggers or the heat get troublesome.

All these so-called Division Matches are preliminary to the Marine Corps Matches themselves, which will be fired at Quantico during June. These will separate the men from the boys, and will determine next year's resting place for the Corps' famous trophies, the Laucheimer, the Elliott, and the McDougal.

The Marine Corps, whether in combat or at Camp Perry, is traditionally a corps of marksmen. Between 1905 and 1940, Marine teams placed first in fifteen National Rifle Team Matches; and between 1920 and 1940, held the top spot in nine National Pistol Team Matches. The names of many of the Marines' foremost generals have been intimately connected with the shooting game. Old-timers will immediately think of General Thomas Holcomb (who retired in 1944 as seventeenth Commandant of the Marine Corps); of Major General Ralph S. Keyser; of Major General David C. McDougal; and of Major General Merritt A. Edson (subsequent Congressional Medal of Honor winner, and now, as Vermont Director of Public Safety, teaching his state troopers to shoot straight). With this tradition active, the prewar Marine Corps—'the Old Marine Corps,' people are already beginning to call it—devoted a good deal of its time and thought to shooting, not only in nurturing prize-winning National Match contenders, but, perhaps even more, in making sure that the average Marine would be a *better than average shot*. Working painstakingly with the '03 rifle, and in the unhurried atmosphere of peacetime, this program and broad emphasis on marksmanship paid off, not only as a seedbed for champions but, more important, for riflemen who—though they may never have seen Camp Perry—could stop a *banzai* charge or pick off a Nip sniper.

Many shots nowadays—including some Marines, by the way—are asking what effect the war will have on Marine Corps shooting. Has the A-bomb made the M1 rifle obsolete? Will the Marine of the future specialize in bacteriological warfare with a spray-gun while the .45 Colt rusts in the Smithsonian?

Has the atom bomb sounc'ed the death knell for men with rifles? Not by a damn' sight, say the Marines ——

I am happy to report that, in this respect, the Corps is continuing business at the old stand in 1948, and that, inasmuch as Marines have regarded marksmanship as a primary enterprise during the past 172 years, the 173rd will not be marked by any radical transition tending to substitute the push-button for the M1.

There have been changes, however. These really began in 1940, with the advent of the M1. Even if the past war had not come along and shaken things up the way it did, the adoption of a new rifle would have caused new departures. On top of the changeover to the M1, moreover, Marine Corps riflemen had the war to contend with, which, in practical terms meant that match shooting was naturally suspended, marksmanship training high-pressured, and the shooting leaven of the old Corps somewhat diluted by nonprofessional Marines.

The interesting thing, despite all these variables as pointed out by M. J. Abribat, veteran Chief Clerk of the Target Practice Division at Marine Corps Headquarters, was that in terms of effect—as measured by qualification statistics—neither the new rifle nor the war really made much difference. Certainly, as the Corps expanded, individual qualifications and requalifications dropped off a few percent between 1939 and 1941. That was bound to happen. But, after Pearl Harbor, the curve actually started the other way and leveled off very favorably for the duration. Abribat—a shark on marksmanship statistics, as might be expected—suggests three reasons for this apparent anomaly: First, that the quality of wartime volunteers probably beefed up the scores appreciably; second, that Marines who expected to be shooting at live targets within a matter of months had plenty of incentive in excess of that which results from the desire to sport a sharpshooter's badge; and, third, that mobilization brought back quite a few of the solid, old-time shots from hibernation in the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, who could now be put back into harness as the best sort of coaches for recruits at Parris Island and San Diego.

Showing how orderly and logical such cycles are, the Marine Corps—in terms of 1947 individual qualifications and requalifications—has now just about equalled its 1940 performance with a further apparent trend toward regaining 1939 levels. Thus, two years *after* a war, the Marines' shooting compares closely with that of the period two years *before* hostilities.

In 1946, still compartively groggy from demobilization—however slight the Marine Corps' problem has been, compared to the headaches and disorders of other Services—the Corps determined that it was none too soon to be thinking about shooting again and of re-establishing the kind of peacetime shooting traditions which had made the word Marine a byword on the range and in the butts.

The first thing to be noticed, however, as the postwar marksmanship campaign opened for business, could be summed up in Abribat's laconic estimate "New people . . . new rifle —both of them starting from scratch."

Especially the part about the new people.

As you looked around the Marine marksmanship world of 1946, it became evident that most of the old-time, vintage shooters had either been shot, retired, or just plain worn out. General Holcomb was far away and on the retired list, even though active in his new billet as U. S. Minister to South Africa. Lt. Col. Henry P. ('Jim') Crowe, a renowned team shot, had (with liberal help from the Japs) eliminated himself from too active participation by literally following his own wartime injunction: "You'll never win the Purple Heart a-lying in those foxholes, men!" Lt. Col. David S. McDougal, shooting son of one of the Corps' greatest shots, had fallen on Okinawa. Indeed, of the legion of experienced shots, probably the most conspicuously active survivor is General Edson who still represents the Marine Corps on the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, and who has just been elected Vice-President of the National Rifle Association.

Despite the absence of some traditional figures, nevertheless, and long before National Team Matches could be renewed, the first postwar Marine Corps Matches were fired in 1946. This required some beating of the bushes in order to find out just who was who in the new shooting world—and this was precisely the main objective of the 1946 matches. Some of the 1946 scores were less than record breaking, but 1946 broke ground for the following year and, ultimately, for 1948.

This year's Marine Corps Matches have already been outlined briefly. To fill in the details, it might be added that a total of approximately six hundred rifle and pistol shots (including a full representation from Aviation and the Marine Corps Reserve) may be expected to compete at Quantico, if all quotas are filled. The following trophies will be in contest either at Quantico or elsewhere as an incident to the Matches:

Elliott Trophy: Competed for by teams from the West Indies, Canal Zone, and posts east of the Mississippi River, in memory of Major General George F. Elliott, former Major General Commandant of the Corps.

Wirgman Trophy: A small-unit and small-station trophy in competition among teams from the eastern part of the United States.

San Diego Trophy: Given by citizens of San Diego, California, and awarded to the high-scoring Marine from posts west of the Mississippi and in the Pacific. For obvious reasons this match is fired at San Diego.

David S. McDougal Memorial Trophy: Awarded by Major General and Mrs. D. C. McDougal in memory of their son, the late Lt. Col. D. S. McDougal, killed in action on Okinawa, this silver cup symbolizes an award to the high scorer in the Marine Corps Rifle Match.

Marine Corps Pistol Trophy: To the winner of the Marine Corps Pistol Match.

Laucheimer Trophy: In memory of Major C. H. Laucheimer, pioneer Marine Corps shot and Inspector of Target Practice, this is the highest such award, going to the best *rifle and pistol* scorer in the Marine Corps Matches.

Calvin B. Matthews Trophy: Awarded to the best recruit score of the year in initial rifle qualification.

The rifle course which will be fired at all matches this year is the one which the Marine Corps has proposed as the new National Match course for the M1. It consists of off-hand slow fire at 200 yards (10 rounds); standing-to-sitting rapid fire at 200 yards (10 rounds); standing-to-prone rapid fire at 300 yards (10 rounds); 500-yard slow fire, prone (10 rounds); and 600-yard slow fire, prone (20 rounds). All ranges up to and including 300 yards will use the familiar 'A' target, while the balance (at 500 and 600 yards) will be fired on the 'B' target. The foregoing course reloads rapid fire, after an initial two-round string, to complete with a full eight-round second string.

Thus it will be seen that the Corps is still pointing toward the Camp Perry .30 caliber matches, even though these unfortunately have not yet been re-established as an annual fixture. The Marine Corps has always felt that the National Matches represent one of the best means of stimulating high marksmanship standards within the organization, and of developing a core of really outstanding shots who are capable of bringing numberless Marine coaches and instructors to the proficiency required for good-quality work in qualification and requalification shooting. To the Marine Corps, the time consumed and the money spent on the National Matches are time and money well spent.

In response to this policy of activity and encouragement in the marksmanship field, Marine Corps Headquarters finds a splendid response throughout the Corps at large. Funds are available and being spent, both for Regular and Reserve training.

Within the latter component, eighteen teams, each in the small-bore rifle and pistol fields, are already in league competition, and the Reserve, mindful of its outstanding prewar tradition, looks forward to a National Match team of its own when, as, and if the Perry classic resumes.

The Marine Corps Reserve points with pride to the fact that its team won the first Team Match ever to be fired with the M1 rifle at Camp Perry in 1940, as well as to many other previous laurels, such as its long-continued possession of the Rattlesnake Trophy.

Approximately seventy-five percent of the Marine Reserve units, reports Lt. Col. Walter R. Walsh, long-time FBI shooting champ and prewar ace of Reserve teams, have their own small-bore ranges and a current goal is to acquire such range facilities for every organized unit. During each Organized Reserve unit's 14-day annual training period, Walsh states that at least three days will be devoted to qualification and requalification with the M1, 250 rounds being allocated per firer.

Those who may have expected that the combination of World War II and 'new men . . . new rifle' would radically change the Marine Corps doctrines of marksmanship will perhaps be disappointed or at any rate surprised to see the Corps back in its groove. This should not, on reflection, seem strange. Tradition is the warp and woof of the Marine Corps, even in so hardboiled a sphere as marksmanship, where results and results only, pay off. Quality shooting has always constituted a Marine tradition since the day in 1779 when Captain Seth Baxter of the Continental Marines is recorded as having expended '12 pounds of powder and 4 boxes and one-half of Musquett balls' for target practice at Nantasket.

The truth is the basic methods of good shooting, in matches or in combat, are well known and have been so for years. Despite such fads as unaimed 'assault fire,' or whatever its

proponents want to label it, the Corps still remains stubbornly convinced that to get any kind of effect that will benefit the taxpayer, it takes a shot that hits. Thus, as it has ever been since the dawn of modern rifle marksmanship in the first National Matches, the Marine Corps of 1948 continues to attempt to produce men who can hit what they aim at. This, obviously, is still a matter of holding and squeezing.

Which, if you happen to pass through Quantico this June, you will see a legion of field-hatted, intent, and somewhat rough-looking Marine competitors doing to the best of their ability.

"Ready on the right? . . . Ready on the left? . . . A-a-a-lready on the firing line! . . ." ♦ ♦ ♦

Shooting the 'Bobbers'

(Continued from page 27)

recoil becomes important. Unless the recoil is very light, it is difficult to keep the wrist straight and the sights aligned.

Probably all pistol instructors talk about trigger squeeze more than any other single thing, and with good reason. It is one of the most important factors in good marksmanship. On a target the size of the Olympic bobber, with a good trigger squeeze, hitting the target is easy; without squeezing the trigger, missing it is just as easy. Anyone familiar with American rapid-fire shooting knows that the faster the rate of fire, the more difficult it is to squeeze the trigger, and the more important a good trigger squeeze becomes.

It would be difficult to decide which of the three—timing, keeping the sights aligned, or trigger squeeze—is most important. A shooter must have all three in order to do well at the bobber game. It will take a lot of practice to acquire them.

Other factors enter into it also, of course—steadiness and the ability to shoot under pressure being of utmost importance, as in American three-stage or rapid-fire shooting.

The goal, both in selection of equipment and in practicing, for which shooters should strive to become proficient at shooting the Olympic bobber course is to be able to aim and fire as easily and quickly as pointing the index finger at the target. This can be done by American shooters using American guns and ammunition. ♦ ♦ ♦

the modern era

CONCLUDING THE RIFLEMAN'S TWO-PART CONDENSATION OF EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR LISTER'S REPORT FOR 1947 . . . THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Last month we brought you, in condensed form, the first half of C. B. Lister's report to the Directors and members of the NRA. Here, in a final installment, are the concluding portions of that report—shooting in America, 1919-1948, and a glance at the foreseeable future.—Ed.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

The broadening of the program of governmental assistance to shooting was, during the period immediately following World War I, a mixed blessing. The civilian State Teams, as had the Guard teams before them, developed a National Match complex. Concentrating on that objective, they too often failed to follow-through in their clubs at home. Encouraging beginners, coaching tyros who might displace their teacher on the state team, called for a brand of unselfish interest in the shooting game that was yet a bit beyond the reach of many. A program intended to encourage the development of new civilian clubs and new shooters boomeranged in some places to the extent of reducing the number of club members and discouraging the training of new riflemen. Steadily, then, restrictions were added to National Match team eligibility requirements, forcing the elimination of old and the placing of new men on the teams each year. Gradually, by a combination of regulation and education, the results envisioned by the Congress and the NRA were accomplished.

Vastly important products of the National Match program were: (1) The steady development of improved service ammunition by both commercial manufacturers and government arsenals; (2) Continuing refinement in manufacturing processes on the service rifle at government armories; (3) The development of improved sights and stocks—never generally placed on the .30-'06 Springfield, but tested and ready to be placed on the Garand; (4) Constant improvement in the standards of rifle marksmanship in the Regular Services and the National Guard resulting in no small part from the competitive performance of the civilian riflemen; (5) The provision of work projects for Government arsenals and armories which made possible the maintenance of small crews of trained workmen around which prompt expansion to capacity operations became possible when World War II made its demands. During the recurrent "economy drives" these projects were often the only things which made it possible to keep trained men from drifting into other employment; (6) The training of many hundreds of civilians who, though not in a position to give their time to the Guard or Reserves during peace-time, were eager to serve when war came.

THE PIPSQUEAKS

Smallbore rifle shooting, Caldwell style, was thought of as miniature service rifle shooting. *Some* may have had other ideas but this approach made it possible to insinuate the lowly .22 into the sacred cloisters of the National Match ranges! While serving as an officer at the Camp Perry Small Arms Firing School in 1918, Captain W. H. Richard had impressed that hard-boiled group of service riflemen with the potentialities of the "modern" .22 long rifle cartridge as a basic training weapon. Demonstrations at 200 and 300 yards which, Captain Richard insisted, were equivalent to 1,000 and 1,200 yard shooting with the Springfield insofar as skill in holding and wind-doping were concerned, sold the idea. Evidence again of the dominance of long-range match shooting in the minds of the riflemen of the period.

By 1930 most of the basic problems of *organizing* the smallbore game as a sport standing on its own feet had been solved. The *development* of the sport could be given first attention.

For the next five years the NRA encouraged the holding of "official" or "sanctioned" tournaments at which the standard rules and regulations would be observed. "Range teams" from National Headquarters attended these tournaments in the dual capacity of instructors for the club officers who were staging the tournament, and of teachers for the competitors—explaining the "how and why" of the regulations. Most thought it impossible to get competitors to attend squadded smallbore matches. "If we don't let them shoot when they want to, they won't shoot at all." The added cost of the double targets and the frames on which to mount them was bitterly objected to by many. "The cost of shooting is already too high. Enforcement of this rule will mean the end of the smallbore game." Frequently there was some one individual who for financial reasons or by sheer lung power dominated the club. "If you rule against him, he will break up the club." The NRA range teams moved in. They squadded, scored, ran the range, enforced the rules. Generally it was fun for all hands. Seldom did the anticipated trouble develop. Never was favoritism shown. And as the NRA men moved in, out, and on to another shoot, competitors and officials alike discovered they had enjoyed the kind of competition they had always wanted—orderly, smooth running, fair to all. But much ground needed covering. Many old ideas and prejudices were hard to down. The NRA staff was small—and travel funds were limited.

It was 1936 before the "official" tournament idea had been widely enough accepted and local range officials sufficiently well trained to go another step. This was the official registration of scores at National Headquarters for all competitors firing in "registered" tournaments. From such scores a National Ranking list would be compiled at the end of each year. Experience proved this plan too full of "bugs" to be practicable. In 1939 standards were established for courses of fire to be fired in "Regional" or "Class A" tournaments, "State or District—Class B" tournaments and "Local —Class C" shoots. Official Referees were certified and each registered shoot was refereed by such officials. All scores were registered at National Headquarters and a National Average List published at year-end.

For a long time the small-bore clubs were thinly scattered over the country. Postal and telegraphic matches were the

only feasible method of providing regular competition and national championships for them. Such matches, through lack of inter-team observation, inevitably lead to doubts, challenges and hard feelings. As the "Sanctioned Shoot" and eventually the "Registered Tournament" idea grew—as smallbore riflemen became accustomed to travel—the postal match lost its appeal. Outdoor postal matches were discontinued by the NRA in 1939. Shoulder-to-shoulder leagues, supplemented by State or District Inter-League shoulder-to-shoulder tournaments were instituted in 1940 and the indoor postal leagues passed into the unlamented "good old days."

COLLEGES GO INDOORS

Indoor shooting fits much more easily into college programs than outdoor shooting of any kind. Revival and expansion of college rifle activities got under way in 1920 on an indoor, 50-foot basis. A national league, firing weekly matches on a postal basis attracted twenty teams including the University of Washington, University of California, and Iowa State. In 1924 the postal leagues were placed on a conference basis and shoulder-to-shoulder matches were encouraged. To stimulate the shoulder-to-shoulder plan, such a tournament was arranged in the 71st Regiment Armory in New York City on January 19, 1924. Eleven eastern universities and colleges sent teams to the match. Four years later the National Intercollegiate Championship was placed entirely on a shoulder-to-shoulder basis. Since then, conferences of district tournaments are fired at the same time on ranges all over the country. Each is supervised by an NRA Official Referee. All scores are telegraphed to National Headquarters as fired. Tabulated in order of excellence, the national champion is immediately ascertained and the results wired back to all competitors. This system, placed in operation in 1928 and widely applauded by the colleges, was the basis of the National Civilian Club Gallery Championship system later put into effect.

THE HANDGUN

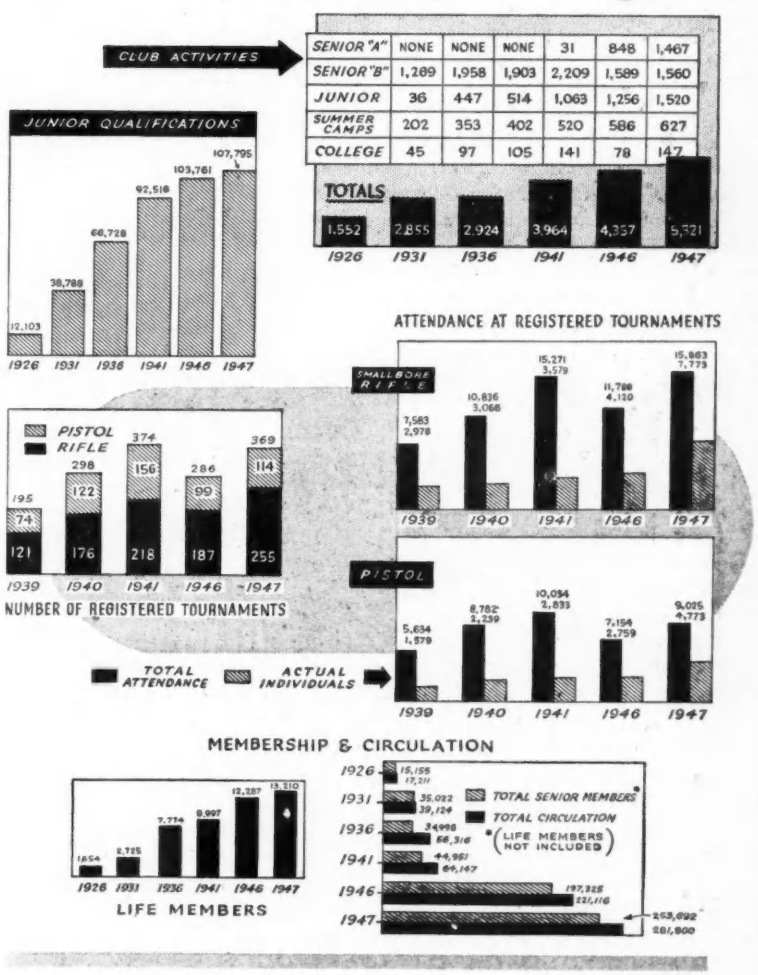
Perhaps because the real potentialities of the revolver were appreciated only by the troops, law enforcement officers, and civilians of the western country, while the small arms promotion program was developed through its first quarter-century by soldiers and civilians from the eastern seaboard, interest in organized pistol and revolver activities lagged far behind the rifle.

Soldiers and police were not interested in single-shot pistols or in slow-fire pistol competition. The three stage, slow-, timed-, and rapid-fire course of the National Matches had greater appeal to the men who were required to carry the semiautomatic and the revolver. With the return of the National Matches to Camp Perry in 1920 and with the addition of the Small Arms Firing School to the National Match program, there was a notable increase in attendance of pistol and revolver shooters. A poll by the NRA of cities of 25,000 population and more showed only three with anything resembling a revolver-training program for their police officers. Most extensive of these called for twenty shots: The Executive Committee of the NRA decided to act.

In cooperation with the National Board for Promotion of Rifle Practice, the NRA arranged for the addition of a Police School to the Small Arms Firing School at Camp Perry. A special Police Division was established at NRA headquarters in 1925 and a planned effort was made to stimulate police revolver marksmanship.

Results were prompt and sometimes unexpected. Attendance of law enforcement officers at the National Matches increased to what then seemed astronomical proportions. The pistol range, equipped with time-honored sash-type targets operated from a pit, became inadequate. The skill of the police officers and the seriousness with which they took to competitive shooting made necessary the design of completely new range equipment. Targets must all appear and disappear simultaneously or near riots would result. Time limits must be observed within a split second for every succeeding relay or the mass wrath of "the Law" would descend on the head

Statistically Speaking...



of the hapless range officer. The new equipment was designed and installed. Target pits and individually-operated targets were gone from the pistol ranges for all time. Stop watches and automatic electric timers controlled the operation of the targets. Fine! But now the rules must be almost completely rewritten! A new sport was being born. The old Army rules would not suffice. And, as in the case of that other new sport, smallbore rifle shooting, turmoil featured the scene. Personal rivalries in the small-bore game were multiplied as inter-departmental rivalries among the police in the pistol game. Police are trained to enforce regulations, and they had to learn that on the target range they took orders, did not give them. As in the small-bore game some would not compromise, left the ranges for a time or for all time. But, as in the small-bore game, strong leadership, common sense, good sportsmanship brought unity of purpose, settled upon fair rules, established a healthy, aggressive co-ordinated program.

Civilians could not disregard the shouting and shooting. Men who had not been interested in the slow-fire single-stage game purchased .22 semiautomatics and .38 revolvers to get into the new sport. Eventually they added the .45 to their interests. Police and Army teams found the .22 to their liking.

Pistolmen were finding their way into the Board of Directors and into the Executive Committee of the NRA. Municipal ranges were being built from East Coast to West Coast—and in this the West set the pace.

The cleanliness of pistol and revolver shooting appeals to business and professional men and to women. The speed with which it moves appeals generally to the American character. If not strangled by foolishly restrictive legislation it may well become the most popular of the sports sired by the rifled tube.

COMES YOUNG AMERICA!

Rifle clubs as a part of the activities of military schools and public schools maintaining "cadet corps" were accepted as being desirable but not too important in the NRA reorganization at the turn of the century. Military and long-range target rifles were too heavy for the youngsters. The only carefully-made, accurate, .22 caliber rifles were equally heavy. General Wingate now headed the Public Schools Athletic League in New York City. Apparently one of the few rifle enthusiasts who realized that the riflemen of the future were the youth of today, Wingate saw to it that the organization of high school rifle teams and the conduct of inter-scholastic rifle matches were made an active part of the P.S.A.L. program. The NRA instituted a military-school and a nonmilitary-school championship fired on a postal-match basis.

In 1925 the Winchester company inquired whether the NRA would be interested in taking over the work started by the Winchester Junior Rifle Corps. Fundamentally sound, and constructive from the standpoint of the national welfare, the W.J.R.C. was nevertheless "bogged down" because of its commercial affiliation. The decision was made without hesitation—the NRA would, at long last, undertake the promotion of junior rifle shooting as a major activity.

By 1931 there were 800 NRA Junior Rifle Clubs with 38,788 qualifications issued their members.

Viewed originally as a means of teaching youngsters to become competitive rifle shots, the true values of the junior program became apparent, piece-meal, in contact with parents, teachers and boys' work leaders. New phrases, new ideas, strange to minds tuned for years only to competitive shooting, began to register with us—"Safety through skill," "overcoming anti-social attitudes," "improved co-ordination," "better student concentration." Were these people talking about rifle shooting for boys and girls? They were! The junior rifle program was *selling itself* to the people who know youngsters best by reason of constructive values of which target-shooting riflemen had never dreamed. Because of these values rifle shooting is accepted today by groups who, in 1926, thought only of "Merchants of Death" when they thought of rifles.

GUNS AND LAWS

Contrary to popular belief there is no dearth of firearms regulatory law. Most States have regulatory legislation of some kind. Regulations covering the carrying of weapons into places of public assembly were common during the Colonial period. The "Carpetbaggers" introduced laws in the South aimed, for the first time in America, at the idea of arming your political friends and disarming your political enemies. In the West many towns and states adopted "check your gun" laws during the era when cowboys and miners were prone to drown their inhibitions in frontier whiskey and to celebrate pay day with a (usually) good-natured but never healthy display of firearms.

After the days of the "Carpetbagger" this concept of firearms control did not again appear in America until 1911 when New York's Tammany boss, "Tim" Sullivan, pressed the original "Sullivan Law" through the New York State Legislature.

In 1922 the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform Laws completed several years of study and debate and offered the first "Uniform Firearms Act." Rejecting the idea of political control of personally owned weapons, it provided for the licensing of dealers; maintenance of records of sales; a forty-eight hour "cooling off" period between the purchaser's original request to purchase and the actual delivery of the pistol; prohibited possession of a pistol by persons previously convicted of a crime of violence, drug addicts or habitual drunkards; added penalties for any crime committed while armed; and required a police permit only to carry a concealed pistol. It *rejected* the theory of police permits to purchase or possess and it refused to consider the general registration of personally owned small arms.

This law was adopted in 1923 by California, North Dakota and New Hampshire. Subsequently it became the basis for laws in 28 States and the District of Columbia.

In 1933 the first serious attempt at a Federal Firearms Law was made. It was an absurd collection of all the theories then prevalent as to disarming the criminal.

So seriously was this asinine bill taken by many proponents that the Association was forced to combat it with expert testimony for almost a year before reason prevailed.

The ultimate decision was to pass immediately an act regulating "gangster weapons," i.e. sub-machine guns, machine guns and "sawed-off shotguns and rifles." This act was adopted by the 73rd Congress and became law on June 26, 1934. It is cited as the "National Firearms Act."

There followed another year of debate through the sessions of the 74th Congress. With the convening of the 75th Congress agreement had been reached and, in 1936, the "Federal Firearms Act" became law. Congress rejected persistent demands that privately-owned small arms be registered with Federal authorities. The law provided for the licensing of manufacturers and distributors; the keeping of reasonable sales records; penalties for the interstate transportation of weapons by persons previously convicted of or under indictment for crimes of violence or fugitives from justice; prohibited interstate transportation of stolen weapons.

Meanwhile, attempts at additional State legislation were continuous. During the middle '30's as many as 175 bills were introduced annually in the various State Legislatures. Some were reasonable and passed. Many were registration attempts and were killed.

Failing in their efforts to obtain the "police state" type of gun regulation and registration in State Legislatures the anti-gun element turned toward city ordinances. This made it much more difficult to combat the movement but we succeeded in every case called to our attention.

In 1945 Mississippi adopted a state-wide firearms registration law covering all weapons except shotguns and very "low-powered" rifles. Registration is presumably made through county sheriffs. Indications are that the law is applied only to those to whom the sheriffs wish to apply it. Eloquent testimony to the potential viciousness of such statutes!

Currently the Fraternal Order of Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation appear to be the only agencies of importance consistently advocating firearms registration. The F. O. P. activity shows up principally as proposed city ordinances. Many members of the F. O. P. are vigorously opposed to this campaign. Many F. B. I. people are opposed but the official attitude of the Bureau is, of course, expressed by its Director, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

LOOKING AHEAD . . . 1948

We enter the new year in the strongest position that we have ever occupied as a national organization. More solid citizens are actively supporting the Association, more public officials know and respect the Association than at any time in the past.

We have welded 300,000 sportsmen and 5,500 affiliated units into a cohesive force which, without drum beating, moves steadily toward making America a better place to live and toward protecting it from its enemies, external and internal.

The larger our membership, the broader the shooting interests of that membership, the more certain we may be that differences of opinion will arise, that readjustments in thinking, in planning and in operations will be necessary. Good sportsmanship in discussion, level-headed thinking, sound management practices, become more and more imperative.

Now, as after each previous war, a new generation of shooters demands consideration. They must be given consideration because they are, inevitably, those who will build on the foundations we have laid or they will let the structure crumble. Sometimes the old gives way grudgingly to the new, but the review of past NRA history shows that, after a brief period of readjustment, the Association has always moved ahead.

The legislative situation should not be too troublesome in 1948. Only seven state legislatures will be regularly convened. In 1949 all forty-eight state legislatures will be in session. During the coming year, we intend to conduct an educational campaign among businessmen and sportsmen to prepare them, more adequately than in the past, to "carry the fight to the enemy."

1948 will be the American shooter's greatest year. ● ● ●

Insulate your Insulators

(Continued from page 28)

to drain and dry, is more bother than it is worth. In answer to that argument I can only point out that one group fired with these bullets measured 2⅜ inches. This group was obtained with the 180-grain hollow-point "processed" bullet and *45 grains of No. 4320 powder,* fired prone at 100 yards.

I feel that a good rifleman could have tightened it still more. This load is in the high-velocity brackets. Dean uses 47 grains of No. 4064 with about the same results. Some of his groups have run even smaller. A deer that Dean shot in the chest last season was killed almost instantly. The bullet passed clear through, leaving a large exit hole.

I recently obtained a Model 98 Mauser which was in very good condition and exactly as issued. I tried Hensley & Gibbs No. 88 bullets in this rifle, "processing" the bullets as already described. This bullet weighs 212 grains as cast in linotype metal.

I decided at once on No. 4350 powder and started with 44 grains, but received only mediocre results. I increased the charge gradually with much improved results. I went as far as 48 grains, which is a *compressed* charge in the 8 mm. case. I then dropped back to 47 grains, which gives about the same accuracy with noticeably less recoil. Forty-eight grains gives too much energy on the south end with the issue stock. My groups for the 8 mm. average about four inches at 100 yards, which is about as good as I can do with the issue sights.

An acquaintance of Dean's tried my 8 mm. load in his Mauser Sporter, which is equipped with a Lyman 48 receiver sight, and obtained a 1½-inch group at 100 yards.

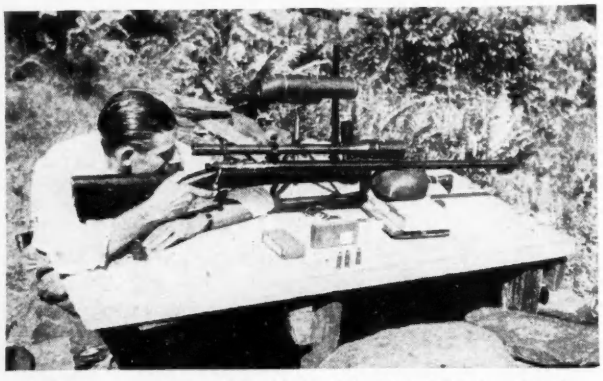
My groups with the .30-'06 have averaged about three inches, firing a Bishop-stocked Mauser which has been converted to .30-'06 caliber and equipped with a K4 scope in a Redfield Junior mount. Nine of the ten shots of one group fired from this rifle were in 1¾ inches, the ten-shot size being 2⅜ inches.

I have experimented with this process for my .270 W.C.F. Model 70, but have not yet found the right combination, though results have been good. I have gone as far as 55½ grains of No. 4350 powder behind the Hensley & Gibbs No. 109 bullet, which weighs about 130 grains hollow pointed and "processed." I found no sign of stripping or fouling and obtained fair accuracy. My groups average about 3½ to 4½ inches at 100 yards.

So, fellow shooters, don't be too sure that high velocity and good accuracy cannot be obtained with a home-brewed bullet. Try it yourself, but be sure to use pure linotype metal and insulate your insulators! ◆ ◆ ◆

Increasing Bench-Rest Accuracy

SINCE "Bench-Rest Technique" (see RIFLEMAN for October and November, 1947) was written, the Eastern Bench Rest Shooters Association have held their first annual competition, on Labor Day, 1947, on the range of the Pine Tree Rifle Club at Johnstown, New York. At this competition, arranged by Mr. H. A. Donaldson, it was clearly demonstrated that the best and preferred use of the bench utilized small sandbags to rest the rifle on (see photograph). The front sandbag is about seven inches square and possibly four inches thick. It is made, preferably, of kid leather, the sand being packed tightly in the bag. Several small boards can be used to bring it to the height above the bench required by each shooter. Usually the forward portion of the rifle forearm is rested on this bag, but some shooters prefer to rest the barrel just in front of the forearm on it as shown.



At the first competition of the National Bench Rest Shooters Association, H. A. Donaldson introduced the use of sand bags to support the gun which resulted in accuracy that has never been seen before

The rear sandbag is approximately five inches square by about two and one-half inches thick. The under portion of the stock of the rifle, between the toe and the pistol grip, is rested on this bag. As the shooter aims each shot, he adjusts this bag slightly to bring the scope on the point of aim.

This method of resting was used by all the shooters at the competition, and it resulted in grouping and accuracy that has never been seen before. As an illustration, four shooters in one relay at 100 yards made very small groups, the largest of which was 18/32 inch, and none of them won anything.

It is quite evident that this is the most accurate and reliable method of resting the rifle on the bench so far devised. Particularly, it does away with heart pulsations entirely. I have been using this method all the latter part of this summer, with better results than I ever obtained before. It practically eliminates human error for me. Also, it takes practically no skill or previous experience except a proper trigger squeeze. Formerly, as I have related, I had been resting my rifles on sponge rubber. Long years of shooting had proved, to my complete satisfaction, that any sight adjustment made while resting the rifle on sponge rubber was correct for shooting offhand, sitting, or prone without a sling. I find that when resting on the sandbags some of my rifles shoot about an inch higher at 100 yards than from the sponge rubber, and with others there is no difference at all.—COLONEL TOWNSEND WHELEN.

Although it was not brought out in Al Barr's contribution to "Bench-Rest Technique," he says that a tip which has proved useful for both bench rest and his shooting stick position is to place a folded sheepskin gun case under the toe of the rifle. With the folds so arranged that the ends of the case come up around both sides of the gunstock, the butt end of the stock is snugly supported between the inner part of the shooter's shoulder and the upper part of the right arm. Barr says this method is worth trying sometime when the rifle does not seem too steady. It gives a decided advantage when testing with cartridges causing heavy recoil.—ED. ◆ ◆

Coconino Cat Tales

By Jim Berryman

AT LEAST I can't be accused of starting *this* argument! It's so old it reminds me of an ancient, wrinkled Negro I saw in Biloxi, Mississippi, some years ago. I asked him his age and he replied " 'Deed, suh, Ah never larned t' count 'ceptin' wid silver dollars, an' Ah ain't nevah seed no mo' dan fo' at a time . . . but Ah sho' recollec's what a mess dem Yankees made o' Vicksburg . . . so Ah mus' be mo' dan fo' yars ol'!"

This marathon controversy I'm speaking of has babbled on for decade after decade, from the fog-wreathed coasts of Vancouver Island to the moss-festooned Everglades of Florida. Cowpunchers on corral top rails and executives on club brass rails have orally battled it back and forth for at least two generations.

When I returned from Arizona's northern canyon country last year, I hadn't been home a week before the boys grabbed their single-shot minds and started drawing beads on me. I never had a chance to draw a negative verb! They had me in the argument quicker than Archibald Rutledge can say, "Shoot a Buck!"

Byron Hale, who hunts with aerial cameras for the Geodetic Survey and with guns in his native Tennessee, fired first at me.

"Jim," he squeezed off slow and smooth, "you've been in lion country for three months . . . *what's the best gun and best load for big cats?*"

There it was! I clutched at the table to steady myself . . . and knocked two whole stacks of Bill Kingswell's blue chips on the floor.

"Now wait a minute, fellows!" I objected, "I've never killed a mountain lion in my life. Why, I've never even seen a live one except in the zoo, and then I was scared stiff!"

"I know durn well you haven't shot one," answered Byron, "th' last time we went woodchuck plinkin', you nearly fainted when that big gran-pappy chuck sat up on a tree root and whistled! But all that Coconino County is cat country, and you were right among the boys who've killed plenty of 'em! I'll bet you didn't confine your conversation to politics and progressive education when you sat around the stove with Giles Goswick, Leo Greenough, the Lee brothers, Jack Bradford, and Ed Meckam! Why, that delegation . . . some professional lion hunters and th' rest cattle or horse men . . . between 'em, they've knocked down a few thousand cougars! What do they use? What's their consensus on the best killer for his nibs, the big cat?"

"Are you asking that seriously, Byron?" I said.

"Darn right. That consarned feline has always intrigued me," answered Hale; "I guess mighty few hunters haven't had the dream that some day they'd get a crack at one before they died. Sure, I've hunted deer—whitetails and mulies—and I have hunted black bear, but I'm just another guy who wants to nail one of those wily, tough predatory rascals. If I do ever get the opportunity to go after one I want to tote along the right rifle, loaded with the right shells!"

"Well, you needn't think you can tuck that wish away as a piece of your own private property," chimed in Gib Crockett. "Who th' Hell wouldn't like to go on a catamount hunt!"

"Ah! Another Tennessee county heard from," I said, stalling for time and hoping to divert the pack. NRA's Russ Lent leaned forward and asked, "What did Gib call him?"

"Catamount," I answered, "call him catamount, cougar, panther, puma, painter, mountain lion . . . ranchers call him a four-word hyphenated name . . . he's still quantity X among the larger American mammals. Considering how far he ranges this hemisphere and how long he's been known to exist, it's really amazing the amount of misinformation that has come to be generally circulated about him."

"Hey! Are we goin' t' play poker tonight, or discuss the private life of an overgrown woods-pussy?" interrupted Mit Collins. (Collins is strictly a duck man from southern Maryland . . . with enough blubber on his bones to be able to sit in ankle-deep ice water eight or ten hours waiting for Mr. and Mrs. Mallard to drop in.)

"Aw shut up, you big Chesapeake retriever," snapped Byron, "go out and open that new bottle of corn-squeezin's . . . and dream about the doubles you've missed."

"No kidding," I said, "while we're on the subject, I did learn a lot about mountain lions out there in the Rimrock section. That Verde Valley is top-flight horse and cattle country—plenty of mulies in there, too—and pronghorn bounce along fifty feet in front of your horse. And where there are colts, calves, and fawn, Brother, you'll find cougars!"

"What's the real lowdown on the mountain lion's meanness, Jim?" asked Kingswell. "Is he tough and vicious, or is he really yellow?"

"There you come smack-dab up against quantity X again," I replied. "The mountain cat is something of a rugged individualist. Jack Bradford told me that it is not only foolish . . . it's downright unhealthy . . . to try to work out any standard pattern on the critters. Of course, some fantastic stories have been bandied about . . . you hear of big Toms weighing close to 300 pounds and measuring twelve feet from tip to tip. Ranch hands, dudes, and Mexicans swear they've seen them. But I'd say the Brothers Lee are certainly to be considered authorities on cats, and their largest kill was a fraction over 200 pounds. It measured seven feet and six and three-quarter inches, nose to tail-tip."

"In fact," I continued, "I checked with the Boone and Crockett Club a few months ago, and found that the largest puma on record was shot near Prescott, Arizona, twenty years ago. He scaled 275 pounds with a spread of just under nine feet. But the average full-grown male lion will run between 125 and 140 pounds."

"Pardon me," interrupted Hale, "this lecture on zoölogy is all very interesting and instructive, but . . . WHAT IS THE BEST CAT-KILLER CALIBER AND LOAD? You're doing a swell job of evading the sixty-four-dollar question!"

"No! I'll get around to that, but . . ."

At this point Mit called from the kitchen, "Is the First Baptist Sewing Club still discussing the parson and the organist's Persian kitten . . . or about to deal another hand of jack pot?"

I ignored this juvenile remark, and turned to Hale to answer. "I guess I'd better brief this thing . . . maybe the best idea would be to tell you just a few of the mountain lion stories I heard . . . and I believe I can remember what knocked the cats over in each one. Then perhaps you'll get the answer to your question."

"First of all, it's the very rare exception when a puma allows himself to be stalked, treed, and plugged by a solitary hunter, mounted or afoot. The rest of the cat clan wouldn't even have respect for that departed brother's ghost wailing among the high rocks on moonlight nights. A dog with a keen nose for lion news is a must! Several dogs are much better . . . a trained pack of dogs and several hunters on good trail-and-hunt-wise quarter-horses is best!"

I might have known this would pique "Ol' Lone Wolf" Kingswell. "You mean," he broke in, "a man starting out by himself with just one good hound wouldn't have much chance of getting a cougar?"

"No, I didn't say that, Bill. After all, hundreds of lions have been bagged just that way. But in most cases the hunter started out because he had definite proof in the form of freshly slaughtered stock or deer that a lion, or a pair of them, had recently been working the area. And his dog is usually a veteran with plenty of know-how, a sharp pair of nostrils for lion spoor, and sense enough not to mix it with Big Tom if he catches up to him before The Boss and Ol' Paint arrive on the scene."

"Suppose the cat wants to fight the lone dog," asks Byron, "then what?"

"No," I said, "as a rule the lion will go for a tree . . . or if he can't make one, he'll bay up. That's when he's absolutely cornered by a blind ledge or too dense brush. But, boy! is he a snarling, hon'ry hunk of animal then! Yet, nine times out of ten, he won't charge the dog—providing the dog is smart enough not to try to close in. One swipe from that powerful paw will practically gut a hound. The hunt-wise pooch will devil him 'til his master can get there and lay a .30-30 back of the cat's ear."

"Ah—ha!" bellowed Hale triumphantly, "So! It's the .30-30! That's what I always thought . . . that 150-grain hollow-point Winchester!"

"Now don't go galloping to conclusions, my friend," I countered, "did you ever hear of a .270?"

"Are you kidding? You know damned well I've got a sweetheart of a .270 . . . that Remington 720! But it's too flat and fast—too much penetration for the close-in work on a treed cat!"

"Is that so! Well, I do know that Jack Bradford only owns two rifles. He's knocked a flock of cougars out of their perches with both of them. Do you know what they are? A Winchester Model 70 in .270 with a Lyman Alaskan, Griffin & Howe mounted . . . and . . . now brace yourself . . . a Savage 23D Hornet with a 48-Y Lyman micrometer peep!"

I let that one sink in, then continued, "Jack uses the Hornet with hollow-points, of course, for the close-in stuff . . . fifty feet to 100 yards. For the long shots he fires Winchester 130 grains in the .270."

"What the Hell, Jim, are you just trying to confuse us?" squawked Bill.

"You all got me into this—you asked for it! Ed Meckam said he was a 'gospel witness' to seeing Jock McLeod, a down-Douglas-way cattleman, empty a Savage 65 automatic's entire magazine into a cougar at close range and not even slow th' varmint down . . . and a few days later a wrangler's teen-aged son popped a large female lion out of a juniper with one shot from a Colt Woodsman . . . and the green-eyed lady was dead as Cleopatra when she hit the rocks in front of the hounds."

"What was that yarn you told me in a letter, about a lion's throwing dogs off the scent?" asked Russ.

"Apparently, it's no yarn. Stew Hall, boss-man of the big Thunderbird Ranch on Little Beaver, gave it to me, and I believe it's strictly straight goods coming from him. Seems that several years ago, right after calving, a particularly blood-thirsty old Tom was indulging in a nightly feast on very fresh and tender veal all up and down the Verde Valley."

"From what I remember of the cow-raising lads I knew out there, I can well imagine the ranching gentry were not too kindly disposed toward that carnivorous kitty," put in Russ.

"Your first hunch is No. 1 correct! They were hotter than Amber, and had no ideas of putting up with it forever, either!"

"E-e-e-YOW!" stage-moaned the kitchen voice, "why do I let myself in for things like this?" (An exaggerated glug-glugging came from that vicinity.)

"Seriously," I went on, "there were five or six cattlemen furnishing very expensive fodder for this baby, so they called Phoenix, and told the Brass Hats to saddle Mr. Goswick's pet pinto and point him toward Rimrock. Three days and thirteen

calves later, Brother Giles G. arrived on the scene with six bleary-eyed hounds, six .32 Special shells, and one ancient but immaculate carbine."

"I suppose Goswick nailed 'im right off the bat," said Crockett.

"Aw no! The gentleman stuck around for a couple of days, studying the ground, the half-eaten calves, the tracks, giving his pups a good snootful of puma perfume, and eyeing the general weather trends. Then he started out. His dogs didn't waste much time picking up the scent, and started bell-mouthing it half a mile from the west bank of the Verde River. But that smart feline slid himself down a crumbling sandy bank into the snow-swollen current and left the dogs at the water's edge."

"That shouldn't have been too tough," said Hale, "all Goswich had to do was get his dogs across, and pick it up on the other side."

"Oh, sure! That's all! And that's what they did . . . the next morning! . . . and almost two miles downstream! The lion had twelve hours jump on them then, and had gone up a steep, rocky bluff almost 100 feet high—then through snow to heavy timber. You can imagine how long Goswick's hounds had to hold that cat where he finally treed up before the hunter could climb, crawl, and creep to the spot. As Hall said, Giles wouldn't like to have it circulated around, but when he got through making it a 'good lion,' he had only four .32 Specials left."

Crockett took the floor at this point. "Is the .32 Special the pros' choice?" he asked. "Have they discovered through trial and error that's what to use?"

"I haven't finished yet, Gib."

"That's what I was afraid of!" came the voice from the jug.

"Now, just hold on a little bit longer," I said, "I don't know whether any of you has heard of Smokey and Grace Emett . . . a husband-and-wife hunting team of that general section. I didn't meet them, but their lion-killing exploits are legend—and legion. Nearly all hot-stove league conflabs in Arizona, New Mexico, northern Texas, and Utah eventually bring up their names. Between them they've erased better than 500 cougars . . . or more than 25 G's worth at bounty rates in the Southwest!"

"Boy! You're a marvel at creating thought distraction," remarked Kingswell, "would you mind if I interpose one small question? What would you take with *you* . . . what one gun . . . providing you had the chance to go . . . providing you could get that bony fanny of yours leather-seasoned . . . providing you could sell Goswick or Bradford or the Emetts on being saddled with you . . . what one would you slide into your scabbard at the take-off?"

"Well, gentlemen, that would require some thought."

"And, who'd handle that little matter for you?" evades-dropped Collins from the kitchen.

I passed over this facetious crack, and continued, ". . . I think I'd borrow that beautiful Mannlicher-stocked Model 70 Winchester .270 of Russ Lent's, the one Al Barr did such a job on. And I'd touch Bill Shadel for his Johnson-converted .257, and lift Paul Webb's .30-30, Model 94, and I'd add my own featherweight Hornet . . . the one Chan Gardiner had rebuilt for me . . . and I'd stand them all up together. Then I'd start balancing all the capabilities of each rifle with the shooting conditions, the terrain, the distance to be traveled . . . and so forth . . ."

"Then you'd call Eastern Air Lines and ask for a reservation for Miami," said Collins sauntering in, glass in hand . . . "and besides, I've heard enough snatches of this dissertation on oversized tabbycats to know it could go on like this for days! And the amazing part of it to me is that you haven't called on Wyatt Hickok, the Kid Collins, for an opinion. I am the guy with the answer!"

Mit took a deep Maryland-sized swallow and smiled with benign tolerance through the hurricane of guffaws.

Then he said, "All right, you wisacres. I'll tell you what's best for killing your creepy old mountain lions . . . it's not the make of gun, nor the caliber, nor the grain load, nor the trajectory, nor the velocity, nor the energy! It's the eye, the trigger finger, the nerves, the knowledge, the experience of the man behind the gun!"

"Mr. Collins," I said, "for a fellow who sweats out hot summer nights painting wooden ducks and shivers out winter days floating them around on half-frozen ponds, you are a very smart man! WHOSE DEAL IS IT?" ♦ ♦ ♦

Dodging Rifle Balls

". . . I confess that when I have seen one [Yankee picket] cover me with his rifle that 'at the crack of the gun' I have 'ducked' my head with a rapid if not graceful motion and heard the whistle of the ball as it passed near me with anything but good feeling for the Puritan Race. You would be surprised to see how, at the distance of 400 yards, we can dodge a rifle shot. We can almost always tell which rifle pit is shot at and by what pit on the opposite side, by keeping a close look out we can see the smoke and dodge in time to escape the shot which we can hear whistle often inconveniently near our heads. You have often heard of 'dodging rifle balls,' I have *seen* it. The Yankees armed with better guns are poor shots and kill very few of our pickets. Some of them have an 'infernal machine' which sends a ball whistling near us when we can see no smoke or fire and hear no noise. These guns or machines have wounded a great many of our men and killed a few I hear."

—Tomlinson Fort to his mother, M. L. Fort, September 26, 1861. From a manuscript letter in the University of Virginia Library.

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RUSSIAN ROULETTE —AMERICAN STYLE

By WILLIAM P. RICHARDS

DEARBORN, MICH., July 26 (INS)—A 25-year-old Army pilot on terminal leave gambled at the risky game of Russian roulette today and lost his life in the presence of his young bride of six weeks.

First Lieutenant . . . climaxed a night of drinking and arguments with his bride in their hotel room by dramatically twirling the cylinder of a .38 caliber revolver, holding it to his temple and firing.

SOMETHING GOOD has come out of Russia, believe it or not! Something good for revolver shooters. It's Russian roulette, a pastime currently popular among less balanced citizens which contains helpful features for every revolver shooter.

There is no need to go into the details of Russian roulette here. By this time the game should be familiar to all of the newspaper-reading public.

For the target shooting fraternity the rules of Russian roulette must be modified, the tempo must be toned down. Follow the spirit of Russian roulette, retain its breath-taking element of chance, but change the game in one essential respect and you will have something—the game of Russian roulette, American style. The one change which should be made is: Instead of aiming the revolver at your head, aim it carefully at a properly located bullseye, observing the customary safety precautions. Aside from this, the game remains practically the same as the imported variety.

Russian roulette (American style) is played like this. Pack your usual equipment, including revolver, ammunition, and five empty cartridge cases, and go out to the pistol range. There you fill the cylinder of your six-shooter with the five empties and one live round. Look away and twirl the cylinder a few times (to lose the location of the live round), then click it shut. Raise the hammer and, as though actually firing, aim carefully at the target and squeeze the trigger. The odds are the five empties to the one live round that the gun will not fire, but that one chance is enough to rouse your interest and to cause you to pay attention carefully to what you are doing, even though you are weary of dry-shooting. If the gun fires, replace one of the empty cases with a live round and proceed as before. (Had you been playing the straight Russian game you would have lost, but American style you can't lose. It's all in your favor.) The second shot, if the first does not fire, gives odds of four to one against firing the gun. The next gives three to one, and so on until the fifth round comes up. Then the odds become even.

The practice works equally well for slow, timed, or rapid fire. At slow fire, you should spin the cylinder after each click, if you want a lot of snapping-in, and reload whenever a shot has been fired. In this way you get plenty of dry practice, yet enough actual firing to make you attend to aiming and squeezing the trigger.

At timed or rapid fire proceed as before, but pull the trigger five times instead of once, as at slow fire. If the gun fires during the string—it will most of the time—*keep right on snapping to the end of the string.* This is important, giving valuable practice in recovery and re-aiming after firing a live round.

If there is no one else on hand to time you, you can do so yourself by means of the 'Irishman's stop-watch.' At 'Commence Firing' start counting to yourself 'Thousand one, thousand two, thousand three' . . . and so on. By the time you reach thousand ten or thousand twenty you will be surprisingly close to the legal time limit. A little practice and you will find that counting doesn't interfere with actual firing at all. In fact, counting to yourself while firing a string with five live rounds will give a good idea of how the time is going and how much time you have left before the target will suddenly spin out of sight.

You will sometimes find yourself yanking the trigger—if on a live round the result will at once appear on the target, if on one of the empty cases your face will just be red. Don't stop to cuss—keep right on and finish the string. Good thing you did it in practice! You will be less likely to do it again. By and by you will get used to the noise and shock of firing and will become blasé, not much caring whether the gun goes off or not. When that time comes your troubles as a trigger snatcher will be on their way out.

Of course, more than one live round may be used in loading the revolver, in which case you should look away while filling the chambers and spin the cylinder after loading either a live round or an empty case so as not to know where the live rounds are located with reference to one another. If you don't take such precautions in the loading you will find that you are a pretty hard guy to fool. The game of course will be even more interesting if you have some one else load the revolver.

The same system may be used with the automatic, though not quite so effectively, by placing in the magazine a mixture of both live rounds and dummies. Draw the slide back every time the hammer clicks, first waiting a long second just in case of a hang-fire on a live round. Even this precaution is no great handicap, for it fosters deliberateness and keeping the sights lined up after the hammer has fallen.

Russian roulette is a great game, but be sure to play it the American way!

LITTLE SURE-SHOT

By E. B. MANN

SKILL WITH FIREARMS WON HER THE ACCLAIM OF EUROPEAN ROYALTY AND THE NAME 'WATANYA CICILIA' FROM A SIOUX CHIEFTAIN. SHE WAS MORE WIDELY KNOWN AS ANNIE OAKLEY

AN AUTOMOBILE ROLLED to a careful stop beside a small table near home plate in the closely fenced Cooke Field baseball park in Leesburg, Florida, and the little group around that table turned silently to watch. Frank Butler, famous exhibition shooter, lately with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show, stepped out of the car and turned, smiling, to lift a tiny white-haired woman from her seat and hold her tenderly while the car's driver hurried to fetch and place a pair of crutches beneath the woman's arms. The woman was Frank Butler's wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Butler were not unused to public appearances. They were both showmen, veterans of 'the Greatest Show on Earth,' and stars besides. They had taken bows before roaring crowds in old Madison Square Garden and before royalty at command performances in Europe. But the grandstand of Cooke Field was empty. The gates had swung shut behind them as they entered to bar even the chance passers-by. Here were only a few close friends. Yet the pallor on Frank Butler's face betrayed a tenseness he had never shown before a crowd, a tenseness he tried hard to conceal.

The woman's white head lifted proudly as the crutches were adjusted, and Butler stepped back. She was sixty-two years old and terribly crippled. Only a few months earlier, doctors had said she couldn't live. Later, they said that she would never move out of her bed. But it wasn't the first time doctors had said she was through, that she'd never shoot again. They'd said that after the train wreck, too—and that was years ago. She'd shot more than 1,400 exhibitions and competitions since *that* accident. Her voice was steady as she said, 'I'll manage, Frank. I want to . . walk . . alone."

She reached the table and looked down at it, smiling a little. She reached out a thin hand and let it rest lightly on the stock of one of the rifles there. "I haven't had a gun in my hands since before the accident, last fall," she said. "But . . . let's see."

She leaned carefully against the table, resting her weight on her left leg. Her right hip and leg had suffered when a car turned over with her. It was all right now, except for weakness after the long pain-ridden months in bed. Someone caught the crutches as she let them fall. She lifted one of the rifles, brought it to her shoulder, lowered it again, measuring the light and the background against which her targets would fly. Frank would feel badly if she failed. So, for that matter, would she.

"I'm ready now," she said, "Throw!"

A penny flew into the air, spinning, and the rifle cracked. There was the bright ring of lead on copper and the coin flew far out across the field, hit fairly, badly dented. A man beside the table let out a quick word of amazement, of praise, quickly silenced. The woman with the rifle was intent now, completely absorbed. "Throw!" she said.

Again a penny flew, the rifle cracked. Again the "pi-i-ing" and whine as the bullet hit. "Throw!" . . . "Throw!" . . . "Throw!"

Twenty-five times pennies went spinning into the air before her, and twenty-five times they were hit. They threw larger targets at greater distances; she hit those, too. They threw five eggs into the air at once, and with a flurry of shots almost too swift to count she broke them all.

She put the rifle down then and reached for her crutches. She was smiling as she turned to her husband and said, "I can still shoot, Frank. I knew I'd shoot again . . . even if I had to learn to shoot from my bed!"

A few months later, at the Mayview Manor Gun Club at Blowing Rock, shooting one of the pair of fine, five-pound, 20-gauge guns made for her and presented to her by one of the great gunmakers of England, she broke the club record with a score of 98 x 100 from the back line at traps. She was herself again.

You say you never heard of Mrs. Frank Butler? Oh yes, you have. Not by that name, perhaps. The Indian medicine man, *Te Toncka Ua Tocka*—himself far better known as Sitting Bull, famous for his bloody victory over Custer on the Little Big Horn—called her *Watanya Cicilia* . . . "Little Sure-shot." The name by which you will remember her is—Annie Oakley.

Annie Oakley was born August 13, 1866, in a tiny log

cabin in a crossroads settlement called Woodland, in Darke County, Ohio. Her full name was Phoebe Annie Oakley Mozee. She was the fifth of seven children of a pioneer family, rigidly poor, dependent strictly on their own resourceful industry for the bare necessities. Six of the seven children were girls. Four years after Annie's birth, her father was so badly frozen in a bitter winter storm that he was hopelessly crippled. He died only a few months later.

The widow struggled hard to keep her brood together, but it was a losing battle, and five years later Annie, aged nine, became the 'ward'—more accurately, the slave—of a family you would expect to find only in the pages of tear-wringing fiction. In later life, Annie would never name these people. She spoke of them only as 'The Wolves.' Melodramatic? Yes. But the name seems apt enough, for this man and his wife treated Annie with studied cruelty, starving her, working her almost beyond human endurance, inventing extraordinary punishments when she failed out of shear exhaustion.

She ran away at last but she was pursued, caught, and rescued—all still in the pattern of the very best (or worst) 19th Century fiction. Her mother had remarried when Annie finally rejoined the family. But here, for a time, fact departs from the pattern of fiction in that the stepfather was poor but kind. Here for the first time Annie found a reasonably happy life. Not a life of ease, by any means, for they were still poor and there was work for all hands to keep food in the larder. There was kindness . . . and there was a gun.

And it was here that Annie learned to shoot—not for fun, but for food. Day after day she walked the woods and the hills after game, and day after day she grew more proficient as a huntress. She became so proficient finally that there was meat to sell as well as meat to eat.

She took to shooting as most girls take to playing with dolls. She loved guns and took pride in her increasing skill with them. When dropping a quail with a shotgun became too easy, she practiced doing a quick full turn after the birds flushed before bringing the gun to her shoulder. She perfected the same trick and others with a rifle on rabbits and squirrels. She tried the rifle on quail, too, and dropped her birds. It was a fascinating game, full of endless variations.

Her fame spread. Turkey shoots and other contests of marksmanship were popular, and Annie won prizes wherever she entered. After these matches, Annie would do tricks, shooting at aerial targets. The girl was good.

She was so good that, when the theatrical troupe known as Butler & Company came to Philadelphia, a friend of Annie's challenged Frank E. Butler—justly famous as an exhibition shooter—to shoot against her. Matches with local marksmen were a part of the build-up for stage shooting performances, and Butler accepted the challenge. It wasn't until they faced each other for the actual shooting that Butler knew that a fifteen-year-old girl was to be his opponent. Had he known that, he might have refused the challenge.

Annie beat him. She 'killed' twenty-five birds with twenty-five shots for a perfect score. Butler missed once.

That night Annie saw her first professional shooting performance. It thrilled her. Butler was good. But, even more than that, Annie saw that Butler's showsmanship, his presentation of the act, added tremendously to the mere skill of the shooting. She went home determined to add these things, too, to her own shooting.

Approximately a year later, she and Frank Butler were married. It was a love match—make no mistake about that. Until the day of her death and after, Frank Butler adored Annie. He was always her Prince Charming.

Naturally, Annie was soon a part of Butler's act. Just as naturally, Annie immediately became the headliner, with Butler dropping more and more into the background. It was Butler's stagecraft, his actor's sense of the dramatic, his sure knowledge of 'how to make it look out front,' that made the act attractive. But it was Annie who did the shooting, and the crowds loved it. . . . So, apparently, did Butler. There was no streak of jealousy in him where Annie was concerned, and the plaudits she earned were more precious to him than personal acclaim had ever been.

But it was in St. Paul that Fate added a dramatic touch beyond even the dreams of Frank Butler. The Battle of The Little Big Horn—the Custer Massacre—was still fresh in the public memory, and Sitting Bull, Sioux leader of the Indian victors, was the man of the hour. Therefore, when Sitting Bull and his friend, Rain-in-the-face (still limping from a wound received in the Custer engagement), arrived in St. Paul on their way to see the Great White Father in Washington, St. Paul's city fathers gave them the keys to the city. They were taken everywhere. One of the sights to be seen was the shooting of one Annie Oakley.

Sitting Bull saw it, and was impressed. Sitting Bull knew good shooting when he saw it and this was good shooting. Moreover, Sitting Bull was lonely. The recent death of his daughter had left an ache in his heart that was slow in healing. The girl on the stage had the dark beauty, the sure carriage, the calm dignity of an Indian princess. Contrary to popular belief, Indians are not phlegmatic when they are excited, and Sitting Bull was excited. He stood up, waving his arms, shouting, *"Watanya Cicilia! Watanya Cicilia!"* . . . Little Sure-shot. It was a name that was destined to stick.

Afterward, Sitting Bull came to see Annie. He wanted her picture—and he wanted to adopt her into the Sioux nation as his daughter.

Annie liked the old warrior and she doubtless saw, too, the immense value this incident could have for her. If she did not, Frank Butler did. Anyway, Annie accepted the offer. The adoption ceremony took place, and Annie Oakley was billed thereafter as the adopted daughter of Sitting Bull.

The next step was the circus: First, a wagon show in which Annie was none too happy; later, the Great Buffalo Bill Wild West, under the benign guidance of Colonel William F. Cody. Cody, too, fell in love with Annie. He called her 'Little Missy' and made her the co-star with himself in the shooting sequences of the show.

Scoffers have sneered at Cody's shooting and at Annie's, have called them fakers because "They used *salt* in their cartridges instead of bullets! Anybody could hit, using loads like

that!" Actually, both Cody and Annie Oakley (and all other indoor or under-canvas aerial exhibition shooters) did use cartridges loaded, not with salt, but with very fine shot, thus turning their rifles into 'shotguns' of extremely small bore. They used these loads, however, only for aerial shooting indoors or under canvas, where it was impossible to provide backstops that would stop bullets. Annie always insisted that the spectators be told whenever these loads were used, and why. She refused to 'cheat.'

But it is an error and a display of ignorance to say that 'anybody' could duplicate the shooting of Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill, even with shot cartridges. Such cartridges in the calibers used throw very small patterns at the short ranges at which they are effective, and it took real skill to hit those flying targets—particularly from horseback, in the midst of a fast-moving 'Wild West' spectacle.

Annie Oakley did all of the 'standard' tricks of the exhibition shooter, and others of her own devising. She split playing cards edgewise with rifle bullets, she knocked small coins spinning from between her husband's thumb and forefinger, she clipped ashes off cigars and cigarettes held in trusting mouths, and she hit small targets while sighting off a mirror or off the polished surface of a knife. She hit small balls swinging in swift circles at the end of a cord. She hit aerial targets with rifle and pistol bullets, breaking them singly and in groups. She drew designs with bullet holes.

One of the tricks that brought her undying fame—though not in the expected form—was that of firing twenty-five shots in twenty-seven seconds from a series of rifles into the center of a playing card. The mutilated cards were given away as souvenirs. It was the custom in 'show business' then, as it is now, that complimentary tickets be punched to distinguish them from tickets representing paid admissions. Sometimes such tickets would be re-used, acquiring many punctures. One showman, on being handed such a much-perforated 'ducat,' remarked, "Looks as if Annie Oakley'd been shootin' at that one!" Hence the term 'Annie Oakley,' which, to this day, means 'free ticket' wherever show people gather.

Once, in a Cincinnati exhibition, Annie fired 5,000 shots from her rifles at 5,000 small composition balls tossed into the air by an assistant. She hit 980 out of the first thousand, 984 out of the second thousand. After nine grueling hours, her score was 4,772 hits out of 5,000 shots, an average of better than 95 percent throughout the performance.

She did tricks, too, with pistols and with shotguns. One of her feats was to run ten feet, vault over a table, run ten feet farther, pick up a double-barreled shotgun and break two trap-thrown clay 'birds'—starting her run after the birds were thrown. Another was to break six targets in four seconds, using three double-barreled shotguns—or to break five targets in five seconds, using a rifle for the first shot, two double-barreled shotguns for the remaining four. Sometimes, when the crowd had been particularly appreciative, Annie would break six targets, all thrown simultaneously, firing six shots from three double-barreled guns. Breaking two or more birds after doing a double spin was child's play for her. These were things she had learned to do—literally—as a child at live game, when hits meant the difference between eating and not eating.

Nor was all of her shooting of the exhibition type. Contests were arranged for her wherever she went and Annie fired 'shoulder to shoulder' competition against the best rifle and shotgun shooters of the world, taking on all comers, male or female, amateur or professional, for money, marbles, or publicity. She rarely found a shooter, man or woman, who could even extend her.

Johnny Baker, later to be acclaimed as the 'Champion Exhibition Rifle and Shotgun Shot of the World,' shot against Annie for seventeen years in the Buffalo Bill Wild West Shows. He never beat her. Asked, years later, if he hadn't let her beat him, Baker said, "There never was a day that I didn't try my damnedest to beat her! It would've been better for the show if I *had* beaten her sometimes. But she wouldn't throw a match, even for the sake of the show. You had to *beat* her—and she wasn't beatable!"

That refusal to throw a match, that determination to win if she could, regardless of consequences, showed up repeatedly. Annie fired one match (with shotguns, using live pigeons as targets) shooting with one hand, her left hand bandaged and in a sling. The day before the contest, the heavy coiled spring of a target trap had broken as Annie attempted to adjust it, and the sharp end of the spring had ripped Annie's left hand so badly that the stitches taken in it by the surgeon went completely through her palm. The doctor forbade her to shoot. But Annie refused to cancel the match. Shooting one-handed against a man who used both hands, she killed twenty-four out of twenty-five birds to tie one of the country's best marksmen. On the last shot, with a perfect score so far, she was forced to 'double' (i.e., fire a second shot). Unable to swing the gun swiftly enough with one hand, she jerked her bandaged hand out of the sling—and dropped the bird! But the bird dropped 'out of bounds,' scoring a miss. The shock of that movement, coupled with the recoil of the gun, tore the stitching loose in her hand but she had kept her engagement.

The same stubborn determination to win appeared again in her match against the Grand Duke, Michael, of Russia. The Buffalo Bill Wild West Shows were not well received in England on the basis of their first performances—except for one act. Our British cousins were not much impressed by the riding, the roping, or the elaborately staged Indian battles. Cody had gone to great lengths to provide real Indians—even, in many instances, Indians famous for their parts in real battles. Sitting Bull was there, among others. But the Britishers reasoned that they must be fakes—white men made up as Indians. ("He couldn't risk bringing real Indians into the city, y'know—they'd murder and steal! Or, if they *are* real, then all these stories about how dangerous they are, are lies!")

But the shooting—that was something the sports-loving Britisher could understand! And particularly the girl—"the Annie Oakley one, y'know. She's wonderful! Never misses, so help me! And such a modest little thing, too. Not at all what one would expect! You must see her!"

And see her they did, by the scores of thousands. The Queen

came and asked that Annie be presented. Later the King came with his court and again Annie was presented. She was called for command performances at the Palace and at the Royal gun clubs. She shot with Edward, Prince of Wales, and his friends. She was the toast of England—later, of all Europe.

It was Edward, Prince of Wales, who requested that she shoot against the visiting Grand Duke, Michael, of Russia. Michael was in England to pay court to Princess Victoria. He was a sportsman, very proud of his skill with guns. It was no mean skill; the Duke was an accomplished marksman.

The request from the Prince was a Royal command, of course. But Cody begged Annie to lose. "You can't beat the Grand Duke!" Cody protested in horror. "Maybe I can't," Annie admitted. "But if I can, I will!"

And she did. It wasn't even a contest. Shooting trap-thrown clay birds *at sixty-five yards,* Annie broke forty-seven out of fifty. The Duke broke thirty-six out of fifty. Unfairly, the British press played up this defeat of the Grand Duke by a woman to such a point that the Duke was almost laughed out of England. He never married Victoria; perhaps Annie was the unintentional cause of that failure.

She went to the Continent later, fired many matches there before royalty, fired almost daily before tremendous crowds. There, as in England, she was given medals from kings, honors of many kinds. In Germany, she shot with Prince Wilhelm of Hohenzollern. At his request, she shot a cigarette out of his mouth. Later, when Wilhelm became Kaiser and dragged the world into war, Annie wondered if it might not have been better had *that* shot been less truly aimed!

But the days of glory for The Greatest Show on Earth—the Buffalo Bill Wild West—were numbered, and those who tried to imitate it never quite reached its attainments. Annie Oakley appeared with several of these later ventures but, more and more, she turned to competitions and single-handed exhibitions. At fifty-eight, already a white-haired lady, once told by doctors she would die but saved only by five hazardous operations, she broke the club record in a trap shoot at the Wentworth Gun Club in New Hampshire.

She lived for some years at a popular resort hotel in Pinehurst, South Carolina, teaching children, women, and men, too, to shoot. She toured the country during World War I, putting on exhibitions at Army camps and in the cities for the benefit of the Red Cross. It was in November, 1918, just after the close of World War I, that she was injured again in an automobile accident near Daytona, Florida. And it was the following spring that she proved, as described in the opening paragraphs of this story, that she was still 'unbeatable.'

How good was she? This time the answer can be flatly stated, not as a matter of opinion but as fact, based on recorded scores at known targets under known conditions. With rifle or shotgun, Annie Oakley was one of truly great, top-flight marksmen of all time. Few men have excelled her. Only one woman to my knowledge (Mrs. Topperwein, of the famous exhibition shooting team composed of Ad Topperwein and his charming wife) has ever equalled her records.

She was a great shooter, a great trouper, a fine lady. When she died, only a few years after the event with which this story opens, "show business" mourned her, and so did thousands who had only seen her shoot. She was unique. Her kind will not soon be seen again. ♦ ♦ ♦

First Annual NRA Convention

The year 1948 will provide an important landmark in the history of the National Rifle Association. For, this fall, during the week of October 24, the delegates for the *first* of the proposed Annual NRA Conventions will assemble at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D. C. The parade of NRA Conventions will start in the Capital City, but in succeeding years it will move across the nation to other cities. By moving the meeting site, it will give every Association member a chance to attend one of the conclaves within a few years.

The convention has been planned with a two-fold purpose . . . to conduct business and to provide instruction. Specific objectives will be to improve club and tournament management, improve club facilities, further develop the junior program, and to plan a nation-wide educational campaign against anti-firearms laws.

The business program will be highlighted with the annual members' meeting for the purpose of electing one-third of the NRA Board of Directors for the following year. That means the annual members' meeting at Camp Perry, Ohio, during the National Championships, goes by the boards. The move was made in order to open up the meeting to a larger percentage of the 300,000 Association members. The Perry meetings were always well attended by National Match competitors but, considering the Association's present size, it was a restricted body which the convention meeting will broaden into a more representative group of the Association's membership.

For instruction purposes, the firearms and ammunition companies are being urged to bring technical exhibits to Washington to augment the famous Camp Perry Commercial Row type of exhibits which will be provided at the hotel. In addition, several tours are being arranged . . . sight-seeing excursions for wives and families of delegates and technical trips of inspection for the delegates themselves.

A number of free discussion periods will be worked into the program so that delegates from all sections of the country may compare ideas and place individual problems before the meeting. Delegates will also be given an opportunity to inspect the home office of the National Rifle Association and to see its operations.

All NRA clubs are urged to send at least one delegate to the 1948 convention and to give immediate attention to the financial problems involved. Funds can be raised several ways. Benefit shoots, dances and banquets, bingo games and raffles are but a few suggestions. It will take concentrated effort by all clubs to put the convention program over, but it is of such broad scope that no club can afford not to be represented at the Shoreham this autumn. Individual Association members are also asked to plan a Washington trip on October 24. Further details of the convention will be published in subsequent issues of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. ♦ ♦ ♦

A Homemade LOADING TOOL

By GORDON C. BOSER

THERE ARE MANY FINE loading tools on the market today, but sometimes I need special dies for loading jobs which involve changes on a moment's notice. Being somewhat of a toolmaker myself, I have made up a tool to meet this need.

The loading press I have designed and made is the result of considerable time and experiment. Minor changes in design were necessary before the tool was satisfactory to me. At present it leaves nothing to be desired for accuracy. It is not intended for speed, though it will load triple the amount of the old tong-type tool and do a better job while about it. The tool has been used considerably and I cannot see any reason why it will not give much more service.

There are many sets of dies for the tool, including the .25-20, the .32-20, the .38 Special, the .401 Colt, the .44 Special, the .45 Colt Long, the .32 S&W Long, and the .30 caliber Luger. A lot of time and no little trouble went into making these, but I find the results worth the effort. I can make up any special die for the tool on short notice. This is convenient for an experimenter.

The tool consists of the following major parts: The base, which measures 5 inches wide and 12 inches long, is of ¼-inch material. Two T irons, one on each side, run the length of the base, which is a girder. These T irons and the girder are riveted together by ten 3/16-inch rivets. At each corner is a ⅜-inch hole for bolting the tool to a bench.

The upright casting is 10 inches high and made of semisteel.

Sizing dies and priming punches for the loading tool. Each is identified in the text

Steel anchor posts are bolted to each side of the casting at the rear, and anchored by lugs riveted to the base and bolted to the bottom of the anchor posts. These anchor posts fasten the rear of the casting securely and the top houses the end of the lever.

The lever itself is fastened to the anchor posts by a ⅜-inch hardened pin. It is of soft steel, 1¼ inch wide, ½ inch thick, and 16 inches long. In proper position on the lever to give maximum leverage and stroke depth are the links. These, made of the same material as the lever, pin to the arbor head.

The arbor head, of heat-treated die steel, is milled to the same thickness as the lever where the links connect to it.

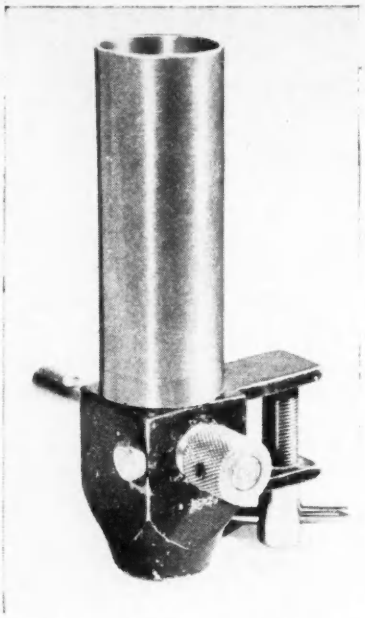
The arbor is 8 inches long and turned down to 7/16 inch where it is press-fitted and set-screwed to the arbor head. Below this connection the arbor has 2 inches of .05/24 thread. This thread takes the two round adjusting nuts at the top of the arbor. The nuts are drilled at four positions for a small rod which provides leverage for turning them when adjustments must be made. The top nut is of soft steel but the bottom one is hardened, which gives a better grip than were they of the same material. At the bottom of the arbor a cut-down of ½ inch diameter and ¾ inch length is made to fit the dies. The arbor is made of chrome-vanadium steel, heat-treated to a C-58 Rockwell. To the right of the casting at the bottom of the arbor is a thumb screw used to tighten the arbor in position when tools are being attached to it. The bottom of the casting has a set screw going through to the center hole which is used to fasten the dies that attach at that point.

The dies for the press are all made of Cro-Car steel, heat-treated to a very high Rockwell—about C-65. This steel is resistant to abrasives and will stand a lot of wear.

Shown in the illustration are the dies, as follows: (A) is one of my many bullet-sizing dies. I do have a lubricator-sizer but find this press useful when odd sizes are needed for experimental work. (C) is a master tool which I use with any priming punch (K, L, M, N, O, and P). (D) is the die used for seating when crimping is necessary. (E) is a neck-sizing die. (F) is a die used specifically when no crimping is desired. When the noncrimp die is used for seating, all adjustments must be made at the arbor top. When the crimp die is used, it is adjusted at the top of the arbor and the seating depth is adjusted with the seating screw. (G) is a full-length sizing

die. When attached to the tool it is not screwed down as the other tools are, since it has to be reversed to punch out the sized cases. (H) is the shell holder. (I) is the priming die, which is milled off at each side of the top to allow easy extraction. (J) is a group of four seating screws, each for different type bullets. These screws, with 10/32-inch threaded shanks, have holes through the head for tightening, as on adjusting nuts. (K), which with (L, M, N, O, and P) measures .375 inch across the shank for use in the master tool (C), is a round face priming punch. (L) is a flat face priming punch. (M) is used to punch in and out the cases that are full-length sized. (N) is a neck expander. (O) is a bullet-sizing punch. (P) is the decapping punch.

The two pieces, (B), are parts of a tool that I have used very successfully with a pet .38 Special load and a certain bullet which I wish loaded most accurately. I call this tool a bullet starter. The bottom section houses the case, which is inserted from the bottom, the mouth going in to meet the bullet chamber. The bullet is inserted in the tool from the top and guided into the bottom by the ½-inch male and female parts that connect them. A cut of the bullet point in the bottom of the top portion starts the bullet 3/32 inch into the case accurately. It is then seated in the usual way on the loading press.



The base of this precision powder measure is made from soft steel and the cylinder of brass

The tool and dies as a whole are sturdy and very accurate. The tool has one special feature, in that the lever is retracted to its full stroke capacity after any operation except full or neck sizing. The retractor is located between the anchor posts and the arbor connecting links. It consists of two angle irons at the top, one on each side of the lever, which are held in place by a hardened bushing that pivots in the lever. The irons are securely held to the bushing by a screw. The bottom angles are bolted to the casting. Two guide rods are riveted to the top irons and, by means of holes in the bottom irons aligned with the rods, guide the retractor springs as they compress and retract. The springs, 2½ inches long fully retracted, are of 1/16-inch stock and fit nicely over the ¼-inch guide rods. One need only let go of the handle of the lever and it returns to its full height.

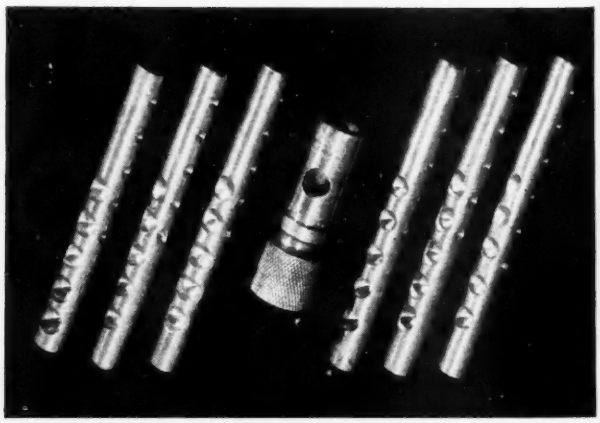
I might mention that all the dies for use on the bottom of the tool have .625-inch shanks where they fit in the base, while the top tools measure ½ inch where they fasten on the arbor. The seating screws are screwed in the bottom of the arbor and can be adjusted to any seating depth. The tool in the photo is set up for seating the .401 Colt cartridge.

The die steel will be found to hold its size well on hardening. I use a steel of C-65 hardness for dies that must take a lot of wear, and a C-56 for more toughness. It gains its maximum hardness between 1,750 and 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. Parts should be packed in a suitable container with clean cast iron borings (or charcoal mixed with 5 percent sodium carbonate) and heated uniformly for thirty minutes, removed from the pack and oil quenched. The tool should be held in the bath until the temperature is at least 200 degrees F. It may become brittle if tempered before reaching that temperature. This steel may be drawn from a temperature of 200 degrees F. for a C-66 hardness down to 1,000 degrees F. for a C-51. The best combination of hardness and toughness is reached by drawing at 400 degrees F. for one hour. This gives a C-63 hardness.

This die steel contains a large percentage of chromium and is, therefore, somewhat rust-resisting. I have tried other steels for die work but so far find this the best for my use. I have a full-length sizing die for hand sizing .38 Special cases. This steel was used in it and I have sized an unreasonable number of cases. After all this service, the cases still come out .375-inch diameter.

The powder measure designed and made up by the writer is also extremely useful for experimental work in that it is adaptable to many powder charges. It is of the fixed charge type but can be easily adjusted to throw just about any charge that one would use in small rifle or pistol and revolver cartridges.

The base of the measure is made of 1½-inch square stock soft steel. It is 2½ inches long and tapered at the bottom. The center hole is bored and reamed to 7/16-inch diameter down to the point at which the lateral holes go through the cylinder. Then it is reduced to .1875 inch. At the bottom a taper hole joins to make it adaptable to any cartridge mouth size from .22 to .45 caliber. The hopper, 1½ inch in diameter and 4½ inches high, is press-fitted to the base which has been turned to the inside diameter of the hopper. The master cylinder is of ¾-inch brass material. It is drilled through for the sub-cylinders which are of 7/16-inch brass material. The master cylinder is 2½ inches long, including the thumb piece, and has a center hole of ⅜-inch diameter. The sub-cylinders are 4½ inches long and have holes spaced so as to align with the center hole in the master cylinder. On the sides of the sub-cylinders are small drill spots that align with a 10/32 Allen screw in the thumb piece of the master cylinder.



These cylinders, drilled to throw various weight charges, fit into the cylinder with the knurled knob, horizontally in the powder measure

Thus, the two may be locked together for any given powder charge that might be used. The master cylinder has a groove on the right side and, with the stop screw, locates the charge and discharge positions. The clamp is made of channel iron and has a capacity of 1½ inch and a .05 24-thread thumb

screw for fastening to the bench. This clamp is fastened to the base by means of two 10/32 set screws.

I have six sub-cylinders that are used with this measure, each with five cavities which vary in size and consequently throw different weight powder charges. One is long enough to use the blank space which throws a charge of only the size hole of the master cylinder, namely 1.8 grains of Bullseye.

A sub-cylinder is inserted into the master cylinder and locked in line with the particular cavity which will measure the powder charge one wishes to use. By turning the handle of the master cylinder toward the loader, the cavity of the unit is charged. Turning the master cylinder away from the loader throws the powder into the cartridge case.

The cylinders are surprisingly accurate, depending on the type of powders used. No. 80 is the most accurate, throwing charges that do not vary at all. Bullseye measures very accurately. No. 2400 is next in line, while such powders as No. 4759, a large tubular type, vary more than any.

Powder	Weight Thrown From Cylinder No. 1	Weight Thrown From Cylinder No. 2	Weight Thrown From Cylinder No. 3	Weight Thrown From Cylinder No. 4	Weight Thrown From Cylinder No. 5
Bullseye	2.5 grains	3.0 grains	4.0 grains	4.6 grains	4.9 grains
No. 80	Same weight for the same bulk as Bullseye				
Unique	2.7 grains	3.3 grains	4.2 grains	4.8 grains	5.4 grains
No. 2400	3.9 grains	4.7 grains	6.1 grains	7.1 grains	7.4 grains
No. 6	2.2 grains	2.8 grains	3.7 grains	4.2 grains	4.5 grains
No. 5	2.1 grains	2.6 grains	3.5 grains	4.0 grains	4.3 grains
No. 4759	2.5 grains	3.1 grains	4.1 grains	4.7 grains	5.0 grains

This measure is the most satisfactory I have ever used. It took a great deal more time to make than the loading tool but, like the loading press, it has given very good service. I do not regret the time spent in designing it. I believe that anyone with mechanical inclination will get a "kick" out of making up their own tools. ♦ ♦ ♦

Box Score on Firearms Legislation

MASSACHUSETTS: House Bill No. 342, introduced January 7, 1948 by Mr. Casey. Would prohibit discharge of any firearm in trap, skeet, rifle, or pistol target shooting on Sunday if prizes were offered and fees charged. Would affect all tournament shooting. Latest information is that this bill has been killed. An undesirable bill.

VIRGINIA: Senate Bill No. 130, introduced February 2, 1948 by Senator Norris of Lively. Would require all firearms dealers to maintain records on pistol and revolver sales and report such purchases to city or county officials. Present law is on county option basis. As a possible step toward statewide firearms registration this bill is undesirable but does not directly affect target shooters in its present form. Passed Senate February 23rd.

RHODE ISLAND: House Bill No. 652 introduced by State Representative Angus D. McLeod of North Kensington on February 5th would amend present bowling alley and commercial shooting gallery licensing law to include all target ranges operated by non-profit clubs. License would be for "a term *not exceeding* one year." No club would be safe in spending money to build or improve a range. Bill in the Judiciary Committee but no action has been reported. A most undesirable bill.

KENTUCKY: House Bill No. 394 introduced by State Representative Shannon on February 26th. Would increase maximum penalty for carrying concealed weapons without a license from 3 to 5 years. No minimum penalty. No action has been reported on bill. A good bill.

NEW YORK: Senate Bill No. 829 introduced by Senator Isadore Dollinger of New York City and identical Assembly Bill No. A-1013 by Assemblyman Louis Peck of the Bronx. Would have prohibited sale or gift of ammunition for use in .22, .32, .38 and .45 caliber guns except to persons who have a permit for possession of firearms. Sullivan Law provides only for pistol permits. Owners of rifles of specified calibers would not have been able to purchase ammunition at all. Killed in Codes Committee. (Thank you, Senator Fred A. Young!)

Senate Bill 1150 introduced by Senator C. Cory Mills of Jackson Heights and Assembly Bill 1379 introduced by Assemblyman Joseph M. Soviro of Brooklyn are identical. Would have made it unlawful to have or carry, without a written license, any loaded firearm or firearm for which the carrier had ammunition on his person. New York laws do not provide for licensing rifles or shotguns so S-1150 and A-1379 would have made it a felony to carry either, loaded or unloaded. Killed in Codes Committee. (More thanks to Senator Young!)

Senate Bill 1117 introduced by Senator Robert Groben and Assembly Bill 1203 introduced by Assemblyman Harlow E. Bacon are identical. Both provide maximum penalty of 5 years in jail or a fine of not over $1,000.00 or both for a person whose negligent handling of a gun results in the death of another. These bills have passed to third reading. Sensible bills.

Primer versus Pressure

By JOHN P. McDONOUGH

DOES PRIMER effect indicate pressure? If so, when and how? Can accurate pressure estimations be made from primer effect?

The accompanying photographs, made after tests with .30-'06 cartridges, were prepared with the thought in mind that they might impress the average shooter who aspires to handload for higher velocities. In looking over them, the average shooter will see that mistakes can be made if primer indentations are considered an infallible means of gauging pressure, either high or low. However, primer effect can be used as a means to recognize *dangerous pressure*.

It is hoped that the average shooter will consider this data for its intrinsic value alone, apart from what he has read or heard previously. I fully realize that a number of celebrated sources of ballistic information have suggested primer effect as a means to determine pressure quantitatively. However, it cannot be relied upon to do so, except in known rifles under particular conditions. The primer *will indicate danger* in chamber pressure, be it high or low. In my book, as soon as I get visible signs of pressure, I take precautionary steps. Any sign of excessive pressure is reason for cutting down the powder charge.

Figure 1 contrasts a new bolt and striker pin with a worn bolt and striker pin. (In all figures bolt N is the new bolt, bolt W the worn bolt.) The worn bolt is offered as an example of the gas-cutting effect of excessive pressure which causes a leakage of hot gas from the case through blown or ruptured primers. Note the ring of primer-pocket diameter around the striker hole and effects of gas cutting on the bolt face. No doubt, this condition was aggravated by improper or no cleaning, with a consequent erosive and corrosive action which resulted in loss of metal around the striker hole.

Figures 2 through 5 illustrate the effects of different measured pressures and combinations of the new and worn pins and bolts on standard cartridge cases and on the size and shape of the primer dimple produced. The new bolt (N) that was used had a headspace of 1.942 inches and a striker hole of 0.083-inch diameter; the worn bolt (W) had a headspace of 1.941 inches and a striker hole (worn oval) of 0.088 inch plus. The worn pin that was used was 0.072-inch diameter and worn slightly sharp. Both bolts were actuated by the same mainspring and used in the same action to maintain constant barrel and chamber influence.

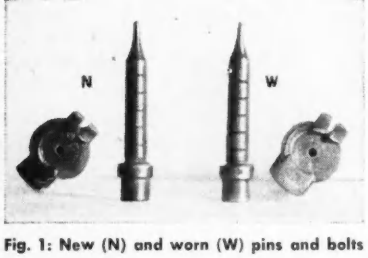


Fig. 1: New (N) and worn (W) pins and bolts

Briefly, the test conditions and results were as follows:

Test 1, Figure 2: New pins with new and worn bolts. As the powder pressure is increased, the primer effect with the worn bolt suddenly increases so that a punctured primer results. The effect is still moderate with the new bolt at higher pressures.

Test 2, Figure 3: Worn pins with new and worn bolts. The result is very similar to that in Test 1. Primer effect was not as severe with a badly gas-eroded pin point as with the eroded bolt.

Test 3, Figure 4: Normal pin and bolt. Although the photograph does not bring out the fact too clearly, the rear sides of the cartridges cases near the retraction groove show a line or ring of smoothly increasing sharpness, indicating increased pressure between the rear of the cartridge case and the forward portion that was pressed and rubbed hard against the chamber wall.

Test 1, Figure 5: New pins with new and worn bolts. This figure is for comparison with Figure 4. Show the picture to your neighbor and see if he can pick out high pressure from primer effect, keeping the pressures in the title to yourself. Naturally, he can't. The pressure-ring indication of Figure 4 is better insofar as pressure ring does not depend, as does primer effect in Figure 5, on striker hole wear.

As we progress through the different stages of the tests, it can be readily noted, by visual means as well as by cold calculation, that oversize striker-hole dimensions will cause primer failure at normal pressures and indicate high pressure when actually low pressure is the case, as demonstrated in Figure 5.

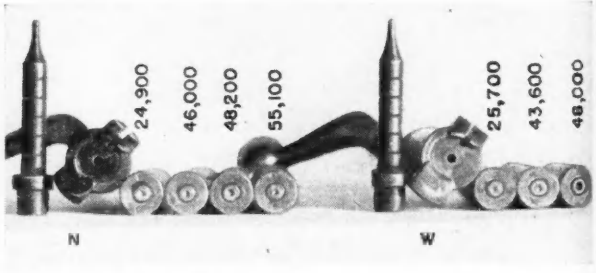


Fig. 2: Using new pin with worn bolt, punctured primer results at higher pressure. Primer effect with new pin and new bolt is still moderate

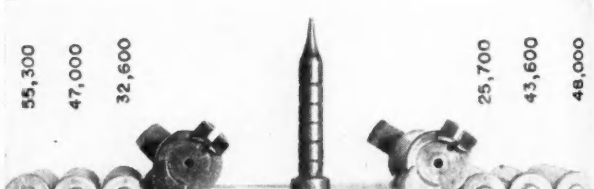


Fig. 3: Tests with worn pins and new and worn bolts result in primer effect similar to that with new pins, though not as severe as with eroded bolt

Confronted with these facts, can the average shooter predict pressure by primer indications? To attempt to do so is to ask for trouble. Primer indication is of very little or no reliable value.

Let's put it this way. Suppose you are able to use a heavy charge with no ill effects, and primer indentations are of normal appearance. If your gun is in good mechanical condition and headspace and other dimensions are correct, you may be

safe in using this charge. But suppose you recommend the same charge to a friend who has a worn gun with loose headspace or a mismated bolt, as is the case with numerous guns now being released by the Services, or to a friend who will use cases of the poorer class, such as corroded or poorly stored cases that he has picked up. A blown primer may result in serious eye injury—certainly it will result in a discouraged shooter and a ruined friendship. *So, be careful!* Don't overload and try for peak pressure to get high velocity.

Certainly, never take too much stock in primer effect except where all known variables are understood, and then only in normal loads. Never leave anything to chance when handling powder charges. Go by the book furnished by people who are qualified to talk, and by all means, don't go in excess of what they recommend unless you have the proper laboratory or test-range facilities. Never attempt Duplex or any "snazzy" loads. Stay clear of any part of so-called wonder loads. They are *dangerous* and better left to those who make such things their business.

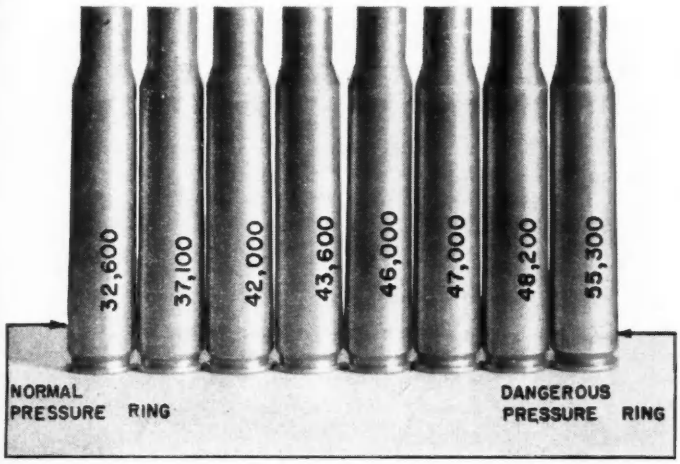


Fig. 4: Increased pressure results in visible pressure rings near extractor grooves

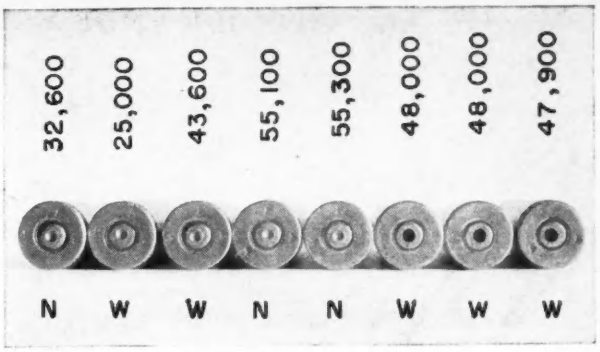


Fig. 5: Sharpness and depth of dimple made by firing pin in primer is not a criteria for judging pressure generated inside case, as this photo shows

To the trained eye, indications of pressure can be estimated with new cases (see Figure 4), however, only in guns of good mechanical condition. This is pointed out as follows: Under chamber pressure the case will expand near the solid part of the base, causing a cold working of the case. This is easily distinguished, as a bright ring will appear when pressure reaches about 25,000 pounds per square inch, and become more pronounced as pressure increases. However, this, too, will be amplified by loose headspace. The ring is of little or no appreciable help to the handloader who uses fired cases, as the resizing die will usually leave a similar ring.

Finally, because of variations in cartridge size due to cold expansion, tolerances, and the use of resizing dies, one cannot consider cartridge cases a safe means of estimating loose headspace. It is too important to use any means other than special gauges, and only persons qualified to use them should do so. Don't use paper shims or some haphazard method you might hear of, certainly not on the say-so of one of these so-called experts that have sprung up lately, like card-sharps in a boom town, with about as much equipment as a fan dancer, and as much gun know-how or skill. ◆ ◆ ◆

Report from the DCM

NRA members are reminded that all Springfield and Enfield rifle orders postmarked between the dates of October 1 and December 31, 1947, are being processed in the order received. Rifle purchase requests postmarked *after December 31, 1947,* must be returned to the sender without action. When it is possible to resume the sale of military rifles, an announcement will be made in the RIFLEMAN. Meantime, the DCM will continue to accept NRA members' purchase requests for articles other than rifles, as authorized for sale in the current price list. Such orders should be submitted on the members' purchase request form printed in the DCM price list, giving specific information as to the stock number, drawing number, description, and quantity of each item desired. A DCM price list will be mailed to anyone on request. Use a post card to ask for it as postals can be segregated and handled more promptly.

Purchase requests for *a rifle plus a barrel* will be filled from the same ordnance depot if possible. When both articles are not available from the same arsenal, shipments must be made separately and will probably be received at different times. Do not, therefore, consider a part of your order overlooked in the event all items are not handled simultaneously by one arsenal.

As this issue of the RIFLEMAN goes to press, purchase requests received during the first part of November are being processed. It is estimated that by April 1 the sales section will be working on orders received on or about November 15.

The effect of this announcement is that all rifle orders from NRA members received by the DCM between October 1, 1947, and October 31, 1947, have now been placed with the nearest arsenal for shipment. Orders received by the DCM during November, 1947, are currently being processed. There remains approximately 42,000 orders yet to be processed.

When the backlog of 1947 orders has been filled, the DCM will resume selling such military rifles as may then be available. An announcement will appear in the RIFLEMAN at that time and any adult NRA member in good standing will be eligible to order one of each rifle available, provided he has not previously received a similar rifle from the DCM.

All communications to the DCM concerning club business should be addressed to: The Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Attention Club Branch, Dept. of the Army, Washington 25, D. C. ◆ ◆ ◆

DUELINGS

ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING delights of Paris is the famous dueling school of Gastinne-Renette. Enthusiasts of fine arms of both the gallery and field will rejoice to learn that shooting is already being resumed after the interruption of the German occupation. Standing in the artistocratic area of Avenue Victor Emmanuel III at the Champs Elysyees, the ancient gallery has the refined and impressive atmosphere of an exclusive club. From its carved stone portal the single indication, *"Tir,"* gives warning of stimulating interest.

No sooner are you within the portal than you will meet Gastinne-Renette himself. A door gently opens and he will lead you into the foyer. It is elaborate and gay like a room in the Palace of Versailles. Graceful and cunning decorations spread wherever you look. Sportsmen, just off the boulevards, are in morning dress—black jackets and grey trousers striped as straight as a ledger. A golden French clock lifts its small face in period design behind the cashier at his white desk. Great glass doors guard each gallery, down one of which you are soon to display your skill in the difficult art of the pistol, for you are to shoot . . . at a man. Framed on the side wall just within each glass door of a gallery are matchless scores made on targets by the world's most famous pistol shots. Clemenceau came here often to practice and made himself into so perfect a pistol shot, Gastinne-Renette told me, "he was feared like a pest." So, too, did that distinguished manipulator of the pistol, the King of Portugal. Here came Walter Winans of England and the Chevalier Ira Paine, an American, who was so skillful many thought his matchless exhibitions were done by trickery, but they were utterly honest.

But now it is your turn to uphold the honor of your national blood. You are at the cashier's white desk, being introduced by Monsieur Gastinne-Renette. Leisurely, arrangements are made. And you have chosen that fascinating thing . . . a duel. The clear, ringing, wicked whiz of a leaden dueling ball stares you in the face.

Mysteriously the director of your duel appears. He is plump, gracious, retiring, beaming, wearing the green apron of the gunsmith's art. And now you accompany him; floating, he seems, in silent witchery, past the glass doors of the galleries to a far one . . . the scene of the duel.

With trembling knee you step over the threshold while Pierre bows as low as his plump stomach will allow. The great glass door closes. Pierre has stepped sidewise into an alcove. A cabinet desk rises conveniently to his hand. On the desk are three little wooden bowls. In one the orange grains of smokeless powder. In the next, glittering .40 caliber spheres . . . dueling bullets. The third is a jewel box sparkling with golden percussion caps. But already your attention has become fixed, motionless with interest. There on the desk are sleeping a brace of dueling pistols, alert in every aristocratic line with the supreme touch of the gunsmith's art. Their graceful tapered barrels, cut with long Gothic planes at the center and richly engraved at muzzle and breech, are lovely to the eye. Their locks are as delicate as a Swiss watch, and if you could see behind the locks they would be glistening like polished ice. The deeply carved dark Circassian stocks, more graceful and straight than a revolver's, awaken thoughts of an ancient treasure chest. They are muzzle-loaders, of course. You are allowed to use nothing but a muzzle-loading dueling pistol, a *pistolet de combat,* in a duel. A metal-

GSCHOOL de Paris

By FRED O. COPELAND

IN GASTINNE-RENETTE'S FAMOUS OLD SHOOTING GALLERY ON THE RUE VICTOR EMANUEL DUELING IS STILL AN HONORED ART, AND MUZZLE-LOADERS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY

"Customers" at Gastinne-Renette's fire from individual booths. Though photograph was taken in 1908, few changes have been made in the gallery

The fine muzzle-loading pistols used at Gaston-Renette's are charged by skilled attendants, who also superintend the duel and give firing commands

lic cartridge loading pistol or revolver would put you in a criminal court if injury or death occurred in your duel. This is your brace. You examine one. How straight it feels in your shooting hand! When you bring back the elegantly decorated hammer, its click is soft as silk. You've really brought it back to half-cock. It's quite different from our American arms. Just the tiniest pressure backward on the hammer, now, sets it at full cock. This is going to fool you, as we shall see. The trigger pull is light, short, smart, and unbelievably smooth.

But already Pierre is preparing for action. He puts a glistening percussion cap over the nipple and explodes it. Down the barrel he drops a charge of loose powder, slips on another cap and fires the loose charge. This is ritual. He is clearing the priming hole against miss-fire. And now the deadly charge! The orange powder runs down the barrel. A glowing bullet, round as a grape, sits on the muzzle. A tap with a wooden mallet, then the push home with a ramrod that gets a final stern thump with the mallet. Here comes the hooded priming cap. When it is seated, Pierre thrusts his thumb over it and with his fingers under the graceful trigger guard, hands the pistol to you as gently as a glass of Romanée.

Your antagonist is also ready. He stands down the gallery corridor 25 meters away, the authentic dueling distance. And he is a man of iron . . . literally. Made of steel, standing free and alone, he is the exact silhouette of a duelist about to fire. And you, waiting for the word of command from Pierre, the director of your duel, will be standing behind the line, your elbow touching your hip, the butt of the pistol touching your thigh, and the pistol pointing at the ground just ahead of your toe; not up in the air as is the popular conception of artists. A metronome in front of Pierre is beating at 120 swings to the minute. Speaking at the speed of the metronome, he is about to shout a series of commands.

"Attention!"

If you have any complaint, now is the time to open your heart . . . you can't do it later. You haven't any? All right.

"Feu!" . . . at this word of "Fire" you must instantly raise your pistol and fire before Pierre has counted *"Un-deux-trois."*

And you tried it and pistol didn't go off. What in the devil is the matter?

Pierre smiles politely and says, *"Chien."*

Chien? . . . what has a dog got to do with it? Ah, but *chien* has several meanings in French. One of them in the world of animals is, to be sure, dog. But another in the jargon of firearms is "cock." You didn't bring the hammer back to full-cock. The dueling pistol's hammer comes so far back at half-cock you thought you had fully set it, and now you do so.

And before Pierre can say *trois* on the second "go," your dueling pistol whips out a sharp report, a wisp of nitro threads upward from its engraved muzzle, leaving you staring at your antagonist, but you needn't. Didn't you hear that little bell ring and haven't you noticed on a wall right beside you a tiny indication figure, a replica in miniature, of the iron man 25 meters away? Take a look, then! A numbered disc has appeared on the miniature. It was electrically connected with your iron rival, and the disc reads "5."

You have made a perfect heart-shot. And see how much worse you could have done. The iron man is blocked off in count-sections; the heart 5, the lungs 4, head 3, stomach 3, thighs 2, legs 1. During the 12 shots, which is a score on a

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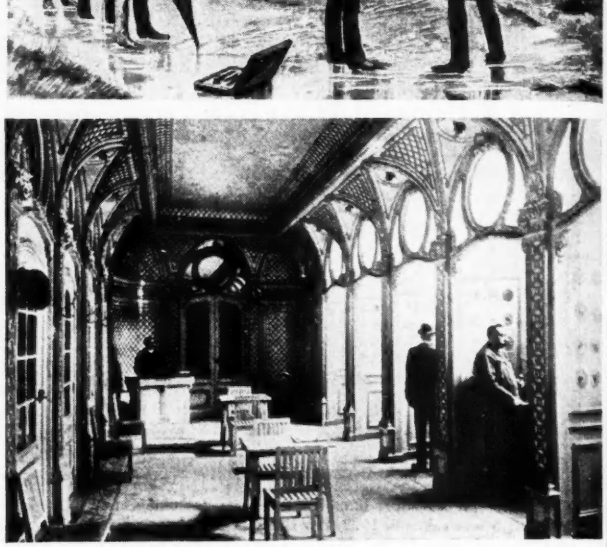


The Gambetta-Fourton duel. The artist evidently was not present, as witness the strangely bent wrists of the duelists

Many of the pistols used at Gastinne-Renette's are works of art. Upper pistol is typical of the standard duelers used

A French duel of the 18th century. Notice duelist with his pistol upraised, which was contrary to the usual practice

Interior of the famed old gallery. The ornate decorations are typical of the Paris of Napoleon III and Clemenceau

French target instead of 10 as on our American targets, maybe you can ring up a 5 every time your dueling pistol speaks. And while you have been shooting, Pierre has quickly loaded your pistol's mate. And so in this fascinating old dueling school, you have practiced just as world's famous names have practiced for a coming duel in the eerie dawnlight, perhaps down the left bank of the Seine at the old dueling ground at Meudon where the roads sweep away for fair Versailles. And your duel in the gallery has been an exact replica of a real one save that there were no pairs of frock coated seconds standing discreetly back, no surgeon with his little black valise, no canes stuck in the ground at either end of the 25 meter range, and no little wax-sealed box holding the brace of pistols which the four seconds witnessed a gunsmith load; pistols the seconds will take by the muzzles from the box and present to the duelists, thus not allowing them to test the trigger pull until that morning when lots are cast for sun and wind. And in recent years they were doing this. In 1931 one of the New York newspapers reported 17 duels fought in Paris in the preceding 17 years. The reasons? . . . women, artistic interpretation, airing one's ideas about another in the press, and once a duel between reporters over a hoax report on Foch's health.

It is interesting to learn just how a duelist should stand. This is considered of grave importance. One school believes in standing sideways and buttoning the coat close in order to make as small a mark as possible. Moreover, this school turns up the coat collar so as to conceal light spots on which to direct an aim. The opposite school declares this is more dangerous than full face, for a bullet will perforate both lungs of a man standing sideways, while only one lung might be touched if he were shooting full face. Both schools admit it is best to aim at the opponent's head and get your aim there first because you own hand and pistol butt will protect your throat and head.

So complete was the House of Gastinne-Renette before the war, it included a park on the outskirts of Paris where the sportsmen and sportswomen of the world were provided with a delightful opportunity to indulge in a unique way in field shooting with the smooth, racy hammerless shotguns of the House. Here in the park you walked with an attendant through silvan isles and little meadows. Along the way an occasional iron rabbit went bounding away, touched off unexpectedly by your House companion. Along the cover-edge a clay target suddenly took wing and hummed like a grouse from a hidden trap.

And on the great liners of the French Line at sea are to be reinstated the perfectly appointed shooting galleries for the pistol, conducted as a Branch of the House of Gastinne-Renette in Paris. To win the pistol championship on an eastward or westward voyage of one of the great liners, with its gallery shooting positions heaving under a heavy sea, is a thing to be remembered, and you will be awarded an elaborate diploma under certification of the famous Paris gallery. ◆ ◆ ◆

"INFERNAL CONTRAPTION"

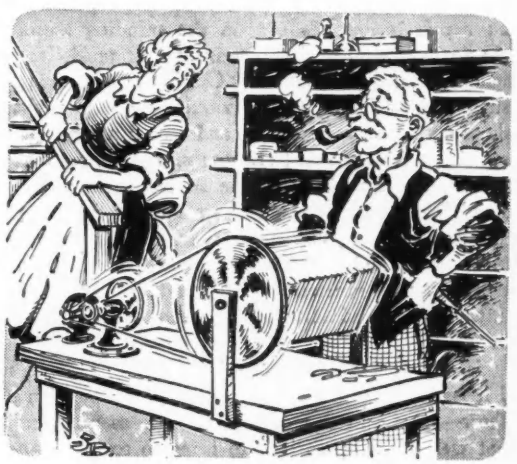
By L. E. CAPEK

THE OTHER EVENING I turned on the juice and proudly watched the wheels and box of my homemade tumbling machine go into action. It made gruesome noises because it was hastily built of some leftover two-by-fours, plywood, a few pulleys, an old washing machine motor, and an empty 12-gauge ammunition case. It definitely did not sound like a concrete mixer, as the "War Department" (the Mrs.) insisted. While I fondly oiled the works and checked the contraption over, the War Department made some remarks about the time I wasted on such Rube Goldbergs while she has been waiting two months to get the Master Mind to make new drape supports in the living room.

I didn't give her conversation too much thought. My machine was of the utmost importance at the moment. While she continued her not-too-complimentary conversation, I filled the tumbling box half full of ordinary sawdust. The crucial test was soon to be made. All went well with My Severest Critic until I took a cigar box full of freshly handloaded .38 Special cartridges and added them to the sawdust. Then I really got both barrels. It started first about the shooting fraternity in general and then about a demented handloader in particular who has no respect for life or limb or the honor, obey, and protect clause which is standard equipment in all marriage contracts. In spite of this depressing attitude on her part I closed the box and reached for the switch. The wheels of the machine had hardly started to turn when the slamming of the basement door advised of the hasty retreat of my life's chosen partner.

But that is the unimportant part of this story. So that you can better understand, let me explain that I handload a great many cartridges for both rifles and handguns. To make sure the finished cartridges are clean and free from grease, I used to hand wipe every one. Those of you who have tried this know how sore your fingers become after a few hundred cartridges are cleaned. Someone might ask why clean them at all. A variety of answers could fit this question. The first would be—"Well, you know how finicky gun cranks can be." The other is to make sure the expanding cartridge case is dry enough to efficiently seal and grip the chamber instead of slipping backward and exerting its entire thrust against the bolt face or recoil plate. So, came the tumbling machine brain child which was viciously called an "infernal contraption" by the love of my life.

The machine is simple to build and can be made in many ways, depending on what material is handy. Mine is built on a simple frame on which a motor (1750 RPM-1/16HP) is mounted. By a pair of speed-reducing pulleys and sewing machine belts, the ammunition box, which is mounted in centers, revolves at approximately twenty turns per minute. This seemed about the proper speed to permit gravity to hold onto the contents of the ammunition case. By operating the machine

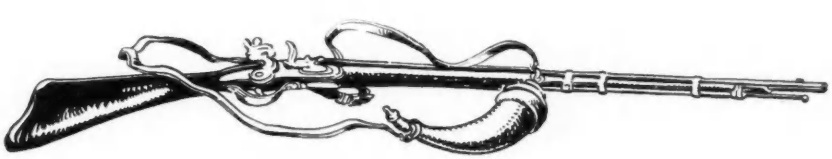


with the box half filled with sawdust, I found that as many as a thousand .38 Specials or approximately four hundred .30-'06 cartridges could be tumbled and cleaned in about fifteen minutes.

After screening out the sawdust and blowing off the excess wood powder, you will be surprised at the almost factory fresh appearance of your handloaded cartridges. This operation will not remove stains in the brass but it does give the case and bullet a dry gloss and better over-all finish with comparative ease and a minimum of tired fingers and greasy cloths.

Is it safe? Well, when I turned on the power for the first batch I did have a desire to hide behind a good strong object. In fact, the clatter of the better half's retreat through the basement door almost caused me to follow. But reason won out. No matter how you look at it, there cannot be any danger. Lead bullets, regardless of the shape, cannot explode a primer even if many thousands were tumbled together without the sawdust cushion.

Of course, my darling still feels that my "infernal contraption" will some day start a chain explosion something like an atomic reaction, but—well, fellows, you know how it is. ♦ ♦ ♦



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The Old Coach

SHOOTING OFFHAND

IT HAS BEEN pointed out time and again by your Old Coach that almost without exception the winning score in a three-position match is dependent upon the standing score. For example, in looking over the bulletin of a State Gallery Rifle Championship we find that winner Clark shot a possible prone, a 96 sitting, and a 92 standing. Warren, the fellow who took second, dropped one point prone, and scored a 98 sitting and a 90 standing. McLain, in twenty-second place, got a possible prone and also beat Clark in the sitting position, by three points. Offhand, however, Clark beat McLain thirteen points. Skipping down to forty-eighth place, we find that Pfeifer had a possible prone and beat Clark by one point sitting. But Clark beat him by nineteen points standing. To repeat—almost invariably the winning score depends upon a high standing score.

If it is true that a wide gap exists between offhand scores —and it is, as any other bulletin from a three-position match will show—why isn't it worth four times as much to learn to shoot well standing as it is to learn to score all possibles prone. As you can see, a shooter might make only a fair score prone and yet, if he has a high standing score, get into a medal-winning place.

The standing position is not too hard to master if you have learned the basic prone fundamentals. At prone you should have become fully acquainted with your rifle, learning trigger squeeze, aiming, holding, and the art of assuming a relaxed and comfortable position. All these things should be second nature before you think seriously of learning to shoot in the offhand position.

The task is to learn to assume a good offhand position and then adapt your trigger squeeze and holding to fit it. Squeeze and holding are about the same offhand as when shooting prone but the body is not as relaxed. More muscles must be brought into play and controlled to fit the arms to the job of making a rest for the rifle, a rest from which you can fire good scores standing.

To take the simplest standing position, you should half-face the target. Your feet should be about twelve inches apart. Don't spraddle—stand firmly on both feet, erect, with your head up. With the rifle lying across your chest, place your thumb across the top of the stock grip. Raise the gun to your shoulder. The elbow of your right arm should be at or near shoulder height. The raised arm and shoulder releases pressure on your lungs and holds the stock against your face so that your head is almost erect. Extend your left arm, free from body support, out under the rifle, grasping the fore-end eight or ten inches in front of the trigger guard. As in prone, the rifle lies across the butt of the hand, pointed at the target, without effort or strain on your part. To be sure it is pointed correctly, close your eyes and let the rifle and your body settle as they will. Open your eyes and note where the rifle is pointing. If to one side of the bull, shuffle your feet a bit, pivoting on the left foot and shifting the right. If the muzzle is too high or too low, hold the fore-end farther out to lower or closer in to raise. Be sure you are properly set before you begin to fire.

The Armed Forces teach a continuous pressure on the trigger, which in plain English means that after the rifle is in position to fire, all of the trigger slack and part of the pull is taken up. Then as the front post or aperture lines on the bull, the pressure is continued until the rifle fires. The rifle must fire unexpectedly. As you learn how to squeeze the trigger correctly, you will find it is not too hard to stay in the black.

Let me add a word on those two and one-half and three-pound trigger pulls. It is not so much the weight of the pull as you might think. In fact many, perhaps all, novices would do better with a four- or even a five-pound trigger pull, as it is easier to apply and feel the pressure with it than with a light pull. The technique recommended by expert offhand shooters is that pressure be put on the trigger while the front sight covers the ten-ring. As the sight weaves off, hold the pressure gained. When the sight comes back on the ten-ring, again increase the pressure on the trigger. Continue this squeezing and holding until the rifle fires.

With the better small-bore rifles, even though the trigger will hold the three-pound weight, it is so carefully set that only the most skillful can apply a continuous pressure. As a matter of fact, few really good offhand shots can tell you exactly how they 'pull the trigger.' They know the rifle must fire at an instant unknown to the rifleman. They know, also, that to try to snap the shot off as the sight swings past the bull is as liable to get them a miss as a three or a ten.

Dry practice standing is more important than dry practice in any other position. And it is easier to carry out. Stick up a small aiming bullseye in your room, duplicating the picture of the bullseye in front aperture as it appears at fifty yards. It must be in good light. Keep your rifle handy and at every possible opportunity spend five to thirty minutes carefully, thoughtfully, studiously aiming and snapping at that little bullseye.

Rig yourself a range in the basement at home and fire at another scaled-down bullseye. Any old ammo will do for this practice. A bullet trap can be purchased from any number of dealers in shooting equipment, or you can make one for yourself. Get a medium-size wooden box and fill it with sand to at least a depth of twelve inches. Faced with thin boards to which the target can be thumb-tacked, the box will stop bullets until the lead content of the sand squeezes the boards apart at the seams.

The secret of offhand and other shooting is practice, practice, and yet more practice. Fire every shot studiously and carefully. Any amount of don't-give-a-darn banging away will get you nowhere fast. If you get a bad let-off, determine the reason. If your position becomes too uncomfortable, change it. But remember that the reason for the change is to allow you to make higher scores, not for the sake of change.

Time spent watching the better offhand shooters is time well spent. Likewise, observe carefully those who shoot the lower offhand scores. There must be a reason for the difference in performance. The good offhand shooter goes at the job calmly and completely collected. Watch him closely and you will see that he always assumes the same relaxed and comfortable position. If you inquire a bit, you will discover that all of his apparent ease of performance is the ripened fruit of hours and hours of studied hard work.

THE SPOTTING SCOPE -- April 1948

With Congressional hearings on the Army's 1949 Appropriation Bill scheduled for early April, Speaker Martin's prediction of a money boost, not a cut, is encouraging. . . . One small item in that budget, of course, will determine whether .30 caliber matches return to the National Match program this summer. . . . Some of the NRA members who responded so generously to the wartime appeal of The American Committee for Defense of British Homes for gifts of arms, ammunition, binoculars, etc., after Dunkirk, may be in for an unexpected surprise. . . . The Committee has received one small shipment already in a drive to round up all gift material still available for return to donors. . . . However, most of the 84,037 pieces, gratefully received and enthusiastically used in England or by underground resistance groups, were lost or destroyed.

Attention shooters and dealers: The new Bustible Bullseyes are busting—busting all sales records for novelty-type targets. . . . Since the first announcement in February over one million have been sold. . . . Popular Russ Lent has resigned from the staff of NRA after eight years to return to his first love, the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, Middlefield, Conn., as Director of Shooting Activities. . . . Russ, former president of the Connecticut State Association and the Eastern Small Bore Association, will be welcoming old friends at the Lymans' magnificent new Blue Trail Range at Wallingford, Conn. . . . Eastern big bore riflemen can look to a return of shooting activity at Camp Ritchie, Md., this summer. . . . The Glenmore Rifle and Pistol Club, of Baltimore, will sponsor the Maryland State .30 Caliber Rifle Championships there June 19-20. . . . Tireless Sam J. Mansfield, after nineteen years as secretary-treasurer of the Pima Pistol Club, of Tucson, Ariz., has relinquished his post to a younger man. . . . Know of anyone who has served a club longer?

If the 1948 National Matches are definitely scheduled for Camp Perry again as expected, small bore firing points will be extended all the way from Erie Proving Ground to the Squaw Camp—525 firing points—and the pistol range expanded, too. . . . Thus the split schedule between the August 8-September 4 dates. . . . The National Skeet Shooting Association has definitely selected Las Vegas, Nev., as site for its National Championships from September 16-25. . . . The Commanding Officer of Fort Ethan Allen, Vt., has accorded the Burlington Rifle and Pistol Club use of outdoor range facilities with room for 100 firing points . . . under authority of recent War Department Regulations regarding use of government-owned range facilities.

Attorney General Van Riper, of New Jersey, has aroused the ire of farmers, organized sportsmen, and target shooters with the frank attempt to disarm law-abiding citizens through state-wide registration of small arms, including shotguns and rifles. . . . In admitting the effort is aimed at discouraging ownership of guns, he abandoned the familiar subterfuge that such legislation will prevent ownership of small arms by criminals. . . . The abbreviated (though hectic) winter legislative season has spotlighted new friends for shooters in some legislatures, notably: State Senators Young and Mills, both of New York, and General Pierce, in Massachusetts. . . . The Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier-Express, cited before in this column for its broadminded approach to the problem of kids and guns, has done it again—this time an intelligent editorial defense of the rights of shooter-sportsmen threatened by the "inexcusably discriminatory" proposal introduced in the New York State Legislature by State Senator Dollinger and Assemblyman Peck, both of New York City.

Members of past Dewar and Pershing Trophy Teams regret the retirement of Mr. George Pethard as secretary of the National Small Bore Association of Great Britain after 34 years service. . . . Mr. A. J. Palmer is the new secretary. . . . To NRA Headquarters recently came a special messenger from Presidential Secretary Matthew Connelly bearing an envelope enclosing five dollars and an application for membership, mistakenly addressed to the NRA at the White House.

Ray Stann

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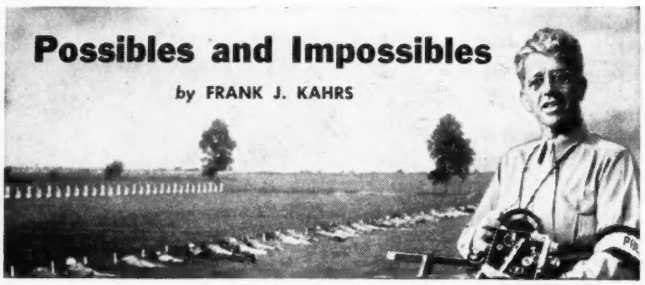
A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle Reg

VOL. 11, No. 4 BRIDGEPORT, CT, A



Possibles and Impossibles

by FRANK J. KAHRS

Over in the City of Brotherly Love, there is a very active League of rifle clubs — it is known as the Philadelphia Marksman's League. In every outfit there is a spark plug, and in this particular outfit there is a pretty active spark plug.

Among other things, they get out a weekly bulletin which gives all of the individual scores of the various teams with averages and bits of gossip and a joke or two about someone or something that is designed to keep up the spirit and the sense of humor of the competitors. For instance, they held a match and the scoring system was clarified — total points won and not matches decided the winner. The allowance for iron sights is only added to the total and is not pro-rated over the positions. And another thing, they voted to have the League enter in the N.R.A. gallery championships so that the winning team will get a crack at the State and National gallery championships, and also to enable the various competitors to get gallery classifications.

The League has been in operation since 1936 and with such leadership and enthusiasm its future is assured. I would not be surprised if some club or League secretary were sufficiently interested, he could get a set of these bulletins from the secretary — G. N. Dewees, 3549 Oakmont Avenue, Philadelphia 36, Penna.

* * *

One of my shooter friends writes me that his club fires a four position 50 ft. match twice a week during the winter season and once a week during the summer season. "We fire 10 shots in each position for a possible 400." "I think 5 shots in each position is not a real test and would like to see all 4 positions competition fires for at least 40 shots." Their high average shooter, my friend tells me, runs a score from 375 to 387—incidentally with a Model 37 and Kleanbore.

* * *

From the February issue of "The Shooter's News" which is published by the Vermont State Rifle and Pistol Association, I take the following, because it explains so clearly the importance of junior rifle shooting and safety. I believe everyone should read it and be governed accordingly.

"It is encouraging to hear of several new Junior Clubs being organized by active Senior Clubs, and we hope to hear of many more. To me, it is a worthwhile evening spent with our junior club watching the kids thoroughly enjoy the sport; and watching them take precautions with their firearms, precautions they did not realize were necessary until a Senior Club member explained why. They don't realize, perhaps, that what they have learned may someday save a life; but to me, watching the kids become automatic in their safe handling of that pet gun is worth one hundred times more than the effort it has taken to teach them and to get the Junior Club organized. A Senior Club without a Junior affiliate is missing the boat. Think of the men who will cause next fall's hunting accidents. They once were boys. No doubt the accidents would not happen if the unfortunate ones who cause them had had the opportunity to learn about safe handling of their firearms from us who are club members. Much of the responsibility of whether the future generations will be permitted to own and enjoy firearms rests with us today. Won't you help keep future America strong by doing your bit now?"

OLYMPIC S
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REMINGTON GUN CLEANING AIDS
KEEPS FIREARMS IN A-1 S

Bridgeport., Conn., April, 1948. A gun can shoot only as straight as the condition it's in. That's why smart shooters keep a kit of Remington gun - conditioning aids on hand at all times. It's smart to keep a pistol or rifle in shape to get the greatest amount of pleasure from it.

Remington Oil is a modern all-purpose lubricant, and it prevents rust as well. A special ingredient, Du Pont "E.P." (Extreme Pressure) lubricant causes the oil to spread more evenly and adhere more tenaciously to metal surfaces.

Remingto
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Remington Gun Grea
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of rust and cor-
rosion. Using these
Remington gun-
conditioning aids,
a sportsman can't
help but keep his
firearms in the best
possible shape for
shooting.

THERE'S ONE IN EVERY CLUB . . . *The Sh*

Remington News

RIDGEPORT, CONN., APRIL, 1948

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle and Pistol Shooters

WEATHER:
Well, THAT Winter Is Over!

SHOOTING PROGRAM ATTRACTING GREAT INTEREST

U.S.A. Teams to be Chosen From Winners of Rifle & Pistol Final Tryouts Following Regional Competitions

Bridgeport, Conn., April, 1948. This is Olympic year! Everyone is anxiously awaiting the start of spring and summer events. One of the most interesting international competitions will be the Olympic Pistol and Rifle Matches to be held in England this summer. Places on the team to represent the U.S.A. are wide open. Anyone can try out. A series of regional and final match tryouts will determine the team members.

Everyone will follow progress of the Olympic matches as they are run off. 22 caliber matches will consist of 50 shots in each position, standing, kneeling and prone, for a team of three or five men. Distance is 50 meters.

30 caliber matches will be held at 300 meters. Incidentally, championship shooting such as this calls for Remington Palma 180 gr. 30-06 match ammunition.

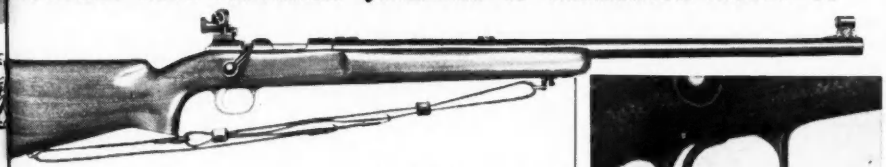
But whether you go to the Olympics, to Camp Perry or stay close to your home firing points, you *can* shoot the finest pistol and rifle ammo available, Remington's "Palma Kleanbore" and "Police Targetmaster." No matter where you go, you'll notice the familiar red and green boxes. They mean top performance because they are produced under constant supervision . . . subjected to toughest tests for accuracy . . . manufactured to closest tolerances.

Accuracy Keeps Remington Pistol Ammo a Top Favorite

ridgeport, Conn., April, 8. Remington's complete of pistol and revolver amition is enjoying greater ularity than ever before the simple reason . . . accuracy and all-around formance are tops.

ntinuous developments in ington laboratory and bale testing departments have ght constantly improved ol over manufacturing esses that means tighter ps in 22's, 32's, 38's and Remington "Targetmas- cartridges have been turnn the kind of groups that help you to top handgun etition.

SHOOTERS LIKE PRECISION QUALITIES OF REMINGTON MODEL 37



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V96 4 APR 48 XUM

Tournaments . . .

The National Capitol Rifle and Pistol Club's Monthly Pistol Tournament had a turnout of 81 competitors. The 20 Shot Slow Fire Match was won by Walter Walsh with a score of 190. C. E. Coffin placed second with 184, followed by James Chapman at 182. Robert Manring, Expert; John Quinn, Sharpshooter; Paul Johnson, Marksman First Class; and Truman Bents were the winners in their respective classes. Expert Frank Papuga's score of 198 gave him first place in the 20 Shot Timed Fire Match over Walter Walsh (197) and C. A. Buell (193). Class winners in the Timed Fire Match were as follows: George Mathews, 192; Willie Sargent, 190; J. D. Butler, 186; and Charles Davis, 177.

Walsh came through to win the Rapid Fire Match with 197. Gene Rodgers and William Cook took second and third place. The Three Stage Match was also taken by Walsh (288) with second place going to Bob Mansell (287). Aggregate standings were: First—Walter Walsh, 872; Second—W. S. Bakutis, 836; Third—Bob Mansell, 829.

☆ ☆ ☆

The First Eastern Seaboard Indoor Pistol & Revolver Championships, sponsored by the Eastern Small Bore Association, Inc., drew 127 competitors despite New York City's bad weather on January 17 and 18. Colonel A. M. Murray won the .22 caliber Camp Perry Match with a score of 296. First place in the .22 caliber National Match Course went to W. T. Blagg with 290. Arthur Fegen placed first in the Center-Fire National Match Course at 284. The Center-Fire Four Man Team Match was taken by the New York Police Team No. 1. The team lineup was: N. Hunter, Arthur Fegen, Mario Ganci and Harold Voelbel. The squad fired a 1095 over the National Match .38 Caliber Course. Second Place went to the Number Two team of the same force. New York National Guard placed third. First place award for Grand Aggregate went ot C. F. Long, who posted a 856 rifle aggregate to win, followed by Arthur Fegen with 853, who creedmoored T. A. Seymour.

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At the end of the third round of the Junior Postal Match, the Glendale VFW Post 3075, Juniors of Seattle, lead in the "open" or prone and standing division with an aggregate score of 2848. Second place is held by the Christian Brothers Academy of Albany, 2835, with the third spot occupied by the B-24 Marine Detachment Junior Rifle Club, of Springfield, Long Island, with a 2829 total.

In the Scholastic Division, the Munhall High School shooters, of Munhall, Pa., lead with 1498. Xavier High, of New York City, leads the military schools with 1494, followed by Christian Brothers, 1489, and the ROTC of Pueblo, Colorado's Central High School, 1478. After Munhall, in the non-military school group, comes the Upper Darby (Pa.) High School with 1495. Chasing them closely is the Munhall second team with 1489 points.

The B-24 Marine Riflemen also lead the non-scholastic class. Their 1493 is two points ahead of the second place Glendale VFW team. The YMCA juniors of Tacoma, Washington, hold down the third spot, 1479.

The B-24 Marine Club has another group of young shooters who have amassed 1457 points to lead the "cub" division—a class for shooters under 15 years of age. Tied at 1430 are teams from the Cretin High School, St. Paul, Minn., and the Roscoe, Texas, Boy Scouts of Troop 37.

The Glendale Post is out in front in the all-girls Division by a nose. The team has four points on the Munhall High girls. The Upper Darby High girls are third, 1473.

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A person using the name of Kenneth Stone is victimizing private gun owners and dealers by purchasing firearms and paying for them with worthless checks. There are two Federal Warrants out for "Stone", one having been issued in Wheeling, West Virginia, March 26, 1947, and one having been issued in Nashville, Tennessee, May 22, 1947.

This man is of stocky build, about 5' 7" tall, weighing 170 to 180 pounds. Eyes are blue or gray. His voice is of the feminine type. He has a complete upper dental plate. Claims to be an engineer by profession. Appears to be well acquainted with the sporting goods business, particularly with firearms.

All readers are cautioned against this individual and are urged to turn over to the nearest F.B.I. agent, or to NRA Headquarters any information concerning him or his operations.

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Post 577 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Tulsa, Oklahoma, sends a challenge to any Veterans of Foreign Wars rifle club to compete in a match or a series of matches. Any club accepting the challenge may set the conditions of the match. VFW takers should write Commander Clark at 1109 East 6th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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The Executive Committee of the National Rifle Association, at its meeting on February 8, 1947, suspended Simon D. Cox of Phoenix, Arizona, from NRA membership and from NRA competition until February 8, 1948. That time has now elapsed and Mr. Simon Cox is again eligible for membership in the National Association and for NRA competition.

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NEW 50 METER TARGET OFFICIAL

The new five bull 50 meter, smallbore tournament target, first introduced in December of 1946, has been adopted as the official NRA 50 meter tournament target for the 1948 season. The target, somewhat similar to the 50 yard tournament target in appearance, has five bullseyes. They are arranged as two pairs with a single sighting bull above. The outside ring is the four. The seven, eight, nine and ten rings are black. The target fits the same frames as are used for the 50 yard tournament target and does not require a change in sight aperture as was the case with the old, larger sized 50 meter sighting black. Although the new target is now official, the use of the old style 50 meter tournament target will be permitted for 1948 in order to give clubs and dealers an opportunity to use up the supply of these targets on hand. Starting with the outdoor season for 1949, the use of the new official 50 meter target will be compulsory in Registered competition.

CLASSIFICATIONS COMBINED

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Rifle Association held in Washington in February, the number of classes in the official NRA Classification System was reduced from five to four. The reduction was brought about by eliminating the Marksman First Class designation and combining all present Marksmen First Class in the Marksman group.

At registered tournaments to be held during 1948, those shooters who now hold official NRA Classification Cards as Marksmen First Class will compete in the Marksman class unless elevated to one of the higher classifications through the automatic process of the Classification System. In the future, all shooters who establish a classification average for the small-bore rifle outdoors of 92.5 to 96.99 will be classified as Marksmen. The equivalent averages for gallery rifle classification are 65.0 to 87.49; for .22 and center fire pistol, 60.0 to 82.99; and for .45 caliber pistol, from 60.0 to 78.99.

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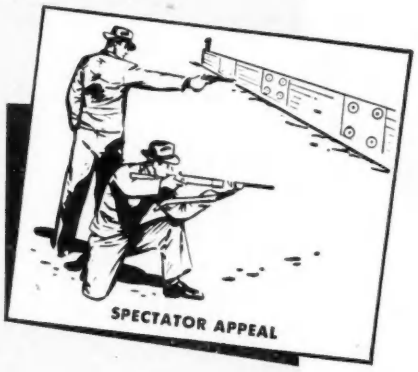

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BERT FOSTER DIES

As we go to press, word reaches us that Albert Foster, Jr., one of the best known and best loved figures in the pistol shooting game, died suddenly at his home in South Orange, New Jersey, during the night of March 5. Suffering from an ailing heart, he had been retired about two years ago from active service with the Colt Company. He had, however, maintained his active contacts with pistol shooters. It is possible that excitement and physical effort resulting from the proposal of Attorney General Van Riper for drastic firearms legislation in New Jersey overtaxed him and contributed to his death.

Foster was born in Philadelphia on May 30, 1879, and educated in Newark, N. J. schools. His start in the firearms business was with the Winchester Arms Company where he was employed as a salesman for ten years. From 1910 Foster was Colt's small arms representative in New York City.

Foster will long be remembered as one of the "old generation" of arms collectors. His home in South Orange was a mecca for old gun enthusiasts. Among his many firearms was perhaps the finest group of early Colt pieces in existence. He was a member of New York City's Armour and Arms Club and many other shooting organizations.

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RIFLEMAN MACHINE ADDRESSED

The printers in cooperation with the RIFLEMAN Circulation Department are constantly trying to improve delivery service of the magazine. A great deal of progress has been made but there is still much to be done. For example, in order to speed up mailing of the RIFLEMAN, the printers are now using automatic mailing machines to attach the individual address labels on the cover. Last month over 200 copies of the March issue were returned because the labels had become lost or mutilated. Unfortunately, it was impossible to determine to whom these magazines were originally addressed, hence they cannot be remailed. Everything possible will be done to prevent a recurrence. When writing to us, always quote your identification code line and complete address exactly as they appear on your membership card or last RIFLEMAN received.

COMING EVENTS

Regional Tournaments (Class A) and State or Division Championships (Class B) only are listed below. All other N. R. A. Registered Tournaments are listed in a printed schedule of coming events being mailed automatically to every classified shooter.

Tentative tournaments are indicated by an asterisk.

Tournaments requiring advance entries are indicated by (Adv.) and tournaments that plan to limit entries to a pre-determined number are indicated by (Ltd.).

Those tournaments where it is tentatively planned to hold tryouts for the Olympic Matches are indicated by (Oly.).

APRIL

3-4, California (B)—California State Small Bore, Fresno. Russell Wisler, P. O. Box 637, Belmont. **(Adv. & Ltd.)**

4, Wyoming (B)—Wyoming State Gallery Rifle Championship. Douglas. Vance Leeper, Box 56.

4, Vermont (B)—9th Annual Vermont State Pistol Tournament, Northfield. Louis B. Tims, 4 Wilder St., Montpelier. **(Adv.)**

4, Minnesota (B)—Minnesota State Rifle and Revolver Ass'n Gallery Pistol, Minneapolis. Dr. E. O. Swanson, Donaldson Building.

11, Minnesota (B)—Minnesota State Championship Gallery Rifle Matches, Willmar. Paul W. Fritz, 301 High Avenue.

11, Oregon (B)—10th Annual Gallery Rifle Championships, Hillsboro. Albert P. Tauscher, 184 S. W. Salmon St., Portland.

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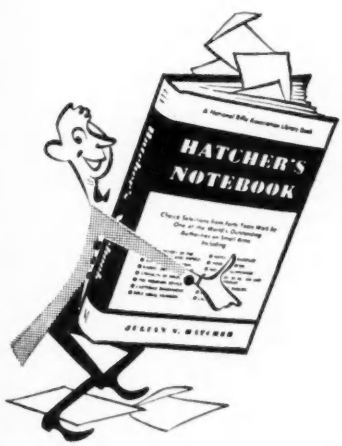

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11, Ohio (B)—20th Annual Ohio Gallery Pistol Tournament, Columbus. Cpl. A. L. Schmieg, 1117 East Broad St.
17-18, Indiana (B)—1948 Gallery Rifle Championship, Indianapolis. Lt. Col. John D. Friday, 711 North Penn. St.
18, Ohio (B)—Ohio State Gallery Team Matches, Columbus. John R. Lang, 3498 Meadow Ave., Cincinnati. **(Adv.)**
24-25, Indiana (B)—Indiana State Indoor Pistol Championship, Indianapolis. Lt. Col. John D. Friday, 711 North Penn.
24-25, Pennsylvania (B)—4th Annual Gallery Pistol State Championship, Wilkinsburg. W. H. Riethmiller, 421 - 7th Ave., Pittsburgh. **(Adv.)**
24-25, Kansas (B)—Kansas State Gallery Rifle, Manhattan. C. A. Templer, 1121 N. Juliette.
24-25, New York (B)—First Annual New York State Indoor Pistol Championships Johnson City. Howard W. Short, 2108 East Main St., Endicott. **(Adv. & Ltd.)**

MAY

9, Idaho (B)—Idaho State Pistol Tournament, Boise. William Buskett, 2202 Madison Ave. **(Adv.)**
8-9, Oklahoma (B)—Magic Empire Smallbore, Tulsa. Don P. Young, 216 East Archer St.
16, Arizona (B)—Arizona State Pistol Championships, Tucson. C. Howard Hathaway, P. O. Box 71. **(Oly.)**
15-16, Texas (B)—Southwestern Rifle Tournament, Dallas. V. A. Moore, 208 N. Ackard St. **(Oly.)**
15-16, Nevada (B)—Nevada State Small Bore Matches, Boulder City. Mrs. Dorothy Cox, Box 453. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
22-23, North Carolina (B)—North Carolina State Pistol and Revolver Championship, Durham. Frank G. Satterfield, Jr., 2119 W. Club Blvd. **(Adv. & Ltd.-Oly.)**
22-23, Arkansas (B)—First Annual Wonder State Smallbore, Camp Joseph T. Robinson. M. F. Fiske, 212 East 17th St., North Little Rock. **(Adv.-Oly.)**
22-23, Texas (B)—Southwestern Pistol Tournament, Dallas. V. A. Moore, Dallas Police Department.
22-23, Ohio (B)—17th Annllal Fort Harmer Open Small Bore, Marietta. Roy J. Donnelly, 510 Third Street.
29-30, Texas (B)—Texas State Smallbore Rifle Tournament, Austin. H. H. Hankey, 823 Harris Avenue.
29-30, Tennessee (B)—Tennessee State Smallbore Championship, Knoxville. A. W. Nine, 104 Underwood Place. **(Adv.)**
29-30-31, New Jersey (B)—Tenth Annual Sea Girt Smallbore Championship, Sea Girt. C. L. Hamm, 25 S. Munn Ave., E. Orange. **(Adv.-Oly.)**
30-31, Idaho (B)—Seventh Annual State Smallbore Championship, Boise. H. P. Greer, Route 4. **(Adv. & Ltd.)**

JUNE

5-6, California (B)—Western States Rifle Championship, Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. **(Oly.)**
5-6, Texas (B)—Texas State Pistol Tournament, Austin. H. H. Hankey, 823 Harris Ave.
6, Colorado (B)—Colorado State Registered Pistol, Denver. Lloyd F. Markle, 1006 Olive Street.
12-13, Connecticut (B)—Eleventh Annual Connecticut Smallbore Tournament, East Wallingford. L. M. Ahlburg, 41 Home Avenue. **(Oly.)**
11-12-13, Maryland (B)—Ninth Annual Maryland Revolver and Pistol Championships, Sparrows Point. G. F. Huesman, Sparrows Point Police Department. **(Adv.)**
13, Iowa (B)—Iowa State Annual Pistol Tournament, Bettendorf. Carl Prevatil, 110 East Columbia, Apt. No. 2, Davenport. **(Adv.-Oly.)**
12-13, Missouri (B)—Missouri State Smallbore Championship, Warrensburg. R. H. Dorian, 4020 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City.
13, Kentucky (B)—Kentucky State Open Pistol Championship, Louisville. J. R. Anderson, Jr., 1063 Bardstown Road. **(Oly.)**
11, 12, 13, California (A)—Pacific Coast Small Bore Regional, Santa Barbara. Roy Gradle, 205 West Isly St. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
12-13, Washington (A)—Pacific Northwest Small Bore Regional, Seattle. C. M. Styer, 220 West Hudson Street. **(Ad.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
12-13, Oklahoma (B)—Magic Empire Small Bore, Tulsa D. P. Young, 216 East Archer. **(Adv.-Oly.)**
13, Colorado (B)—Colorado State Small Bore, Denver. L. F. Markle, 1006 Olive Street. **(Ltd.-Oly.)**
20, Oregon (B)—Oregon State Pistol Championship, Clackamas John S. Altmann, 405 N. Stanton St., Portland 12. **(Adv.-Oly.)**
20, Missouri (B)—Missouri State Pistol Championship, St. Louis. Francis H. Bentrup, 6330 Lucille Ave. **(Oly.)**
18-20, California (B)—Pacific States Pistol Championship, San Francisco. Emil J. Dutil, 324 - 16th Ave.
19-20, Ohio (B)—Small Bore Rifle Tournament, Mt. Gilead. John R. Lang, 3498 Meadow Avenue, Cincinnati 11. **(Oly.)**
20, Maine (B)—Tenth Annual Maine State Pistol Tournament, Auburn. Ralph A. Wagg, R. F. D. No. 1-A.
26-27, Oregon (B)—Oregon State Small Bore Championship, Clackamas. A. P. Tauscher, 1849 S. W. Salmon St., Portland. **(Adv. & Ltd.)**
26-27, Arkansas (B)—Sixth Annual Arkansas State Rifle Association Pistol Tournament, Camp Robinson. Mahlon F. Fiske, 212 East 17th St., North Little Rock. **(Adv.)**

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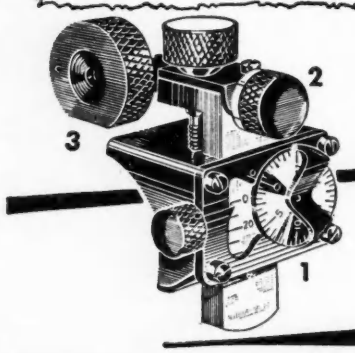

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26-27, Iowa (A)—Middle States Small Bore Regional, Des Moines Howard O. Smith, 305 Eleventh Street. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
26-27, Texas (A)—Southwestern Small Bore Regional, Dallas. H. J. Sides, 2654 Easter. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
27, Maryland (B)—Spring Small Bore Tournament, Randallstown. E. W. Stockhausen, 4614 Marble Hall Road, Baltimore **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

JULY

4-5, Pennsylvania (A)—Eastern Small Bore Regional, Altoona. John E. Kaylor, 709 Fourth Avenue, Juniata. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
2-3-4, Louisiana (A)—Southewestern Pistol Regional, Shreveport. J. Howell Flournoy, 199 Preston Street. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
3-4, Colorado (A)—Rocky Mountain Small Bore Regional, Camp George West. Floyd F. Markle, 1006 Olive Street. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
3-4-5, Virginia (A)—Eastern Pistol Regional, Quantico. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**
July 3-4, New York (B)—Class B Pistol Tournament, Poughkeepsie. Merlin Funk, 691 Main Street.
July 10-11, Washington (A)—Pacific Northwest Pistol Regional, South Bend. Malcolm B. Edwards, P. O. Box 252. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
9-10-11, Connecticut (A)—North Eastern Small Bore Regional, Meriden. J. Russell Lent, c/o Lyman Gun Sight Company, Middlefield. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
16-17-18, Missouri (A)—Middle States Pistol Regional, St. Louis. Frank Stubits, 5507 Lisette Avenue. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
24-25, Oklahoma (B)—Oklahoma State Pistol Championships, Tulsa. Ernest M. Fuller, 207 S. Toledo. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
24-25, Auburn (B)—Fourteenth Annual Small Bore Tournament Maine State Rifle and Pistol Association, Damariscotta. Ralph A. Wagg, R. F. D. No. 1-A, Auburn.
25, Vermont (B)—9th Annual Vermont State Pistol and Revolver Tournament. Northfield. Louis B. Tims, 4 Wilder St., Montpelier. **(Adv. & Ltd.)**
July 31-Aug. 1 (B) Louisiana—Louisiana State Small Bore, Monroe. Evans Ethridge, P. O. Box 590.
July 31-Aug. 1, Ohio (B)—Ohio State .30 Caliber Championships, Camp Perry. Ray T. Bayless, 7301 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

AUGUST

14-15, New York (B)—Rifle Tournament, Bethpage, L. I. V. B. Cleaver, Box 356, Hicksville, L. I.
20, Minnesota (B)—Minnesota State Championship Outdoor Pistol Matches, Art W. Gernand, Box 289, Willmar.
28-29, California (B)—Northern California Rifle Championship, Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.
29, Maryland (B)—Mid-Summer Small Bore Tournament, Randallstown. E. W. Stockhausen, 4614 Marble Hall Road, Baltimore. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

SEPTEMBER

4-5, New York (A)—Northeastern Pistol Regional, Poughkeepsie. Merlin Funk, 691 Main Street. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
5-6, Michigan (B)—Pistol Tournament, Ann Arbor. Lt. H. G. Schulpe, Ann Arbor Police Department.
5-6, Connecticut (B)—Connecticut Valley Pistol Championship, Rocky Hill. G. G. Ledder, P. O. Box 19. **(Adv.)**

STOLEN GUNS

One Remington Pump 31S trap gun, Serial No. 19674, beavertail forearm. Reward. G. H. Gochnour, Fall City, Wash.

One .357 Colt Single Action Frontier Pistol, on .45 frame, chrome finish stag handles, star on outside handle, Serial No. 356-522. Reward. How Shively, Box 690, The Dalles, Oregon.

One Walther Pistol, 7.65 mm. model PP, Serial No. 235204P, and extra clip. Capt. Robert G. Boles, E.E.N.T Section, Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, Ge.

One Enfield Rifle, DCM issue, Serial No. 102095. G. A. Stoll, 7916 Easten, Houston 17, Texas.

One S&W .45 caliber revolver (Commercial), Serial No. 181561. One Webley .455 caliber revolver, auxiliary .22 barrel and cylinder, Serial No. 347866. John J. Driscoll, Major, Air War College, Maxwell Field, Ala.

J. B. Sauer & Sohns, 12 ga. double shotgun, 26 inch barrels, full side plates engraved, 2 ducks in flight in gold on one sideplate and 3 woodcock in flight inlayed in gold on other sideplate, auto ejectors, selective single trigger and raised ventilated rib. A Marlin .22 repeater, Serial No. 19659, with Lyman Alaskan scope on Redfield Jr. Mount. Don Mack, RFD 4, Delaware, Ohio.

One Krag '98 action and barrel, Serial No. 251427 on action. Action in good condition, and carbine barrel badly pitted inside. J. E. Goodenow, 1281½ South Main St., Maquoketa, Iowa.

One Colt Woodsman Automatic pistol, .22 caliber, 4½ inch barrel, Serial No. 10242, aluminum target grips, high-speed housing, trigger backslap removed, in an H. H. Heiser, loop style, tooled holster. Reward $10. George L. Humphrey, 29-C South Fairway Apts., Pullman, Wash.

DOPE BAG

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Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. S. Rose

Magic Wand Welder · Wildcat Chambering Reamers · German Trade Names · Relative Wind Deflection · Removing Shotgun Choke · Revolver Rest · Gunsmithing Kinks · New Cleaner and Preservative · New Air Pistol · Bolt Handles · Good .45-70 Load · Trade Dope · Book Reviews

MAGIC WAND WELDER

One of the best accessories the amateur or professional gunsmith could consider is the latest version of the Magic Wand Welder. Intended for light work only, it is the gunsmith's dream. I have been using one of these outfits for several years and my home workshop would not be complete without it. With it either silver soldering, brazing, or arc welding of small parts is possible, and these jobs are always a part of a gunsmith's work.

The original Magic Wand was the resistance-type, which was none too satisfactory. Since then a transformer-type has replaced the original model. It comes in a handy suitcase-like container, which is readily portable, and works well on regular 110-volt AC household current. The latest transformer-type will perform well on joints of ¼ inch to ½ inch thick. For numerous brazing and silver soldering jobs, I have used the electric flame which is obtained with two special carbon points. For arc welding one carbon point serves as a ground and a regular 1/16-inch or 3/32-inch welding rod is used to complete the circuit. The unit has an unlimited use around the shop and home. With the older resistance-type the wires would not stand the load of current and, from continued use, would become hot and burn off the insulation. This is not so with the transformer-type. It apparently can be used on any AC circuit with 15 ampere fuses.

There are provisions for low, medium, and high heat control for use on any type of metal. Some of the neatest silver soldering jobs I have done has been with the controls set on low heat, using the flame welder unit. Flame welding or preferably brazing or silver soldering is quite easy. For arc welding, sometimes "striking the arc" on cold metal is difficult, but it can be accomplished by first striking the arc on the carbon ground contact and then carrying it to the area to be welded.

Hot carbon or contact soldering can be done with the electric torch set-up. Following instructions for proper hook up to the terminal plate, a very low voltage and very high amperage is produced. This gives adequate heat for sweating on front sights, barrel bands, for spot annealing and for drilling and tapping hard receivers.

The distributor for Magic Wand Welders is Frank Mittermeier, 3577 E. Tremont Ave., New York, N. Y.—A. H. B.

WILDCAT CHAMBERING REAMERS

Charles Cornett, P.O. Box 1682, Flagstaff, Arizona, writes to inform us that he can make chambering reamers to order for wildcat fans. His background is twenty-five years as a tool and diemaker, plus twenty years of case and cartridge reforming. This sounds like a good source for those odd or unusual wildcat chambering reamers. Cornett can also fit and chamber barrels for your own cartridge design.—A. H. B.

GERMAN TRADE NAMES

I should like to see printed in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN a list of the various code designations which were used on the prewar Carl Zeiss binoculars, such as Deltrintem, Silvarem, Silvamar, and others.

The reason for this request is that I have recently come across an instance where a man purchased a pair of 6-power Zeiss glasses in Europe and later offered them for sale in the San Francisco Bay area, advertising them as being 8-power glasses, because unknown to him, the 6 had been cleverly gone over with some sort of tool and changed to a figure "8." I am sure that there must be other instances of this nature and, with the Zeiss glasses still maintaining their popularity, perhaps other prospective purchasers would not be tendered a 6-power for an 8-power glass.—F. B. P., Alameda, Calif.

Answer: We agree that among American consumers there is considerable misunderstanding of German trade names. Not only are the binocular identifications confused but so are those of the famous Zeiss and Hensoldt rifle scopes.

The power of most instruments can usually be determined from the name alone. Exceptions to this rule include the Hensoldt "Nacht-Dialyt," which may be either 7x56 or 8x56; the "Grossfeld," which may be 6x24 or 8x24; and the Hensoldt rifle scopes marked "Ziel-Dialyt," which may magnify 2.75, 4, or 5 times.

Just a reminder to those who have forgotten, "6x24" means that the instrument magnifies the image six times and the objective lens is 24 mm. in diameter.

The following list of model names and descriptions might help to clear the air a little.—J. S. R.

Manufacturer	*Model*	*Magnification*	*Field of View at 100 Yards*	*Weight (Oz.)*
	RIFLE SCOPES			
Zeiss	Zieleins	1X	27	11.1
	Zielklein	2.25X	11.5	8.1
	Zielvier	4X	10.8	13.8
	Zielsechs	6X	7	14.8
	Zielacht	8X	7.4	17.3
	Zielmulti	1-4X	6.5-22	18.3
	Zielmultar	1-6X	.7-20	28
Hensoldt	Ziel-Dialyt	2.75X	13.5	9.9
	Ziel-Dialyt	4X	10.0	10.9
	Ziel-Jagd	4X	11.0	15.2
	Dialytan	4X	10.0	17.3
	Ziel-Dialyt	5X	11.0	15.2
	BINOCULARS			
Zeiss	Telex	6x24	150	16.7
	Telexem*	6x24	150	17.6
	Silvamar	6x30	150	18.3
	Silvarem*	6x30	150	21.3
	Deltrentis	8x30	150	20.6
	Deltrintem*	8x30	150	23.4
	Binoctar	7x50	128	40.2
	Binoctem*	7x50	128	45.9
	Turact	8x24	110	13.2
	Turactem*	8x24	110	15.9
	Delturis	8x24	154	19.8
	Delturism*	8x24	154	20.1
	Delactis	8x40	154	36.7
	Delactem*	8x40	154	42.3
	Dekaris	10x50	128	42.3
(* Central Focus)	Dekarem*	10x50	128	47.2
Hensoldt	Adar	3.5X	173	10.0
	Galyt	4X	150	11.6
	Grossfeld	6x24	150	16.6
	Grossfeld	8x24	145	16.6
	Jagdglas	6x30	150	22.2
	Teljagd	6x30	150	22.2
	Telgon	8x30	150	22.6
	Universal-Dialyt	6x30	125	13.8
	Sport-Dialyt	8x30	110	13.8
	Jagd-Dialyt	6x42	150	26.5
	Marine-Dialyt	7x50	128	30.0
	Hirsch-Dialyt	8x50	120	30.0
	Gebirgs-Dialyt	10x50	95	31.4
	Nacht-Dialyt	7x56	115	32.6
	Nacht-Dialyt	8x56	115	32.6

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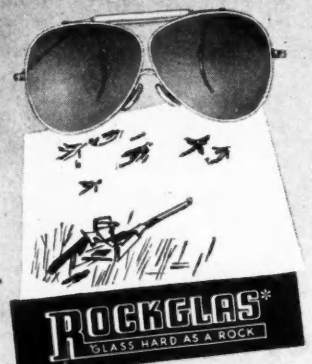

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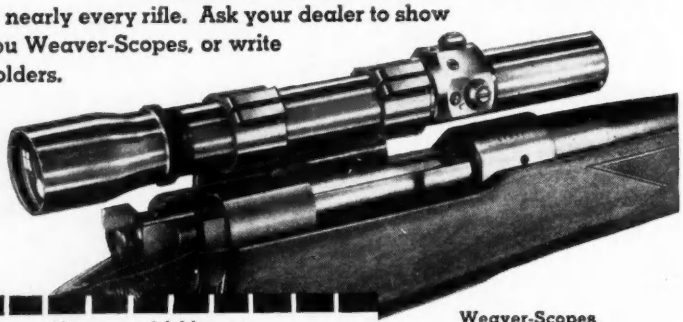

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RELATIVE WIND DEFLECTION

Some shooters were discussing hunting rifles the other day and the question of relative deflection of low-speed and high-speed bullets came up. Here is the question.

If a rifle is fired from a rest at a distance of 200 yards in a steady crosswind and the strike of the bullet is four inches to the right of the target with a muzzle velocity of 2,000 foot-seconds, how far to the right will the bullet strike if fired under the same conditions with the same rifle at a velocity of 3,000 feet per second? Would it strike the same distance to the right of the target or would it strike farther or not as far to the right as the 2,000 foot-second bullet of the same weight?—EUGENE W. PRICE, Bozeman, Mont.

Answer: The lateral deflection caused by the wind blowing on the bullet in flight is proportional to a quantity called "delay." This is the difference between the actual time of flight of the bullet in the air and the time of flight that the bullet would have if it could be fired in a vacuum, where no air resistance acts upon it.

As an example, take an '03 Springfield rifle, firing a .30-'06 cartridge having a 150-grain bullet with a ballistic coefficient of .389. We will suppose that this rifle is fired at a range of 200 yards, that the bullet has a muzzle velocity of 2,000 feet per second, and that the bullet is blown four inches to the right by the wind. Now we want to know how far the same bullet would be blown to the right if it were fired at a muzzle velocity of 3,000 feet per second instead of 2,000 feet per second.

The 2,000 foot-second bullet would have an actual time of flight in the air of .3217 second. If it could be fired in a vacuum it would continue its 2,000 foot-second velocity all the way to the target and have a time of flight of .3000 second. The delay is the difference between these two, or .0217 second.

Likewise the 3,000 foot-second bullet would have an actual time of flight of .2171 second and the time of flight in a vacuum would be .2000 second. The delay is the difference between these two figures, or .0171 second.

It will thus be seen that the delay of .0171 second for the 3,000 foot-second bullet is only 79 percent as great as the delay of .0217 second for the 2,000 foot-second bullet. Accordingly, the 3,000 foot-second bullet will be blown only 79 percent of the four inches that the slower bullet was blown, or 3.16 inches.

The fact that the fast bullet was blown less in this example does not prove that will always be the case. If two bullets differ in shape and a high-velocity bullet happens to have a worse ballistic shape than the low-velocity one, so that it suffered greater air retardation, it could be blown more.—J. S. H.

REMOVING SHOTGUN CHOKE

I have a closely choked double-barrel 12-gauge shotgun and wish to open one barrel to approximately Improved Cylinder. Can you give me directions for doing this?—P. L. HANSCOM, Fairfield, Maine.

Answer: In order to get a more open spread and a wider pattern, it would be practical to attempt to relieve the choke part of your shotgun barrels. It is not advisable to cut the barrels off because too much of the choke would be removed.

The best way to open the barrel would be

to lap out the choke section, but it will have to be done experimentally in order to get the type of patterns you want. This will mean a lot of work because there are no mechanical measurements that would assure exactly the type of patterns you want.

The mechanical choke constrictions in a 12-gauge gun are the equivalent of .040 inch for a full-choke, .012 to .015 inch for modified, and .020 to .024 inch for ¾-choke. These measurements do not always give the exact patterns for the different degrees of choke.

In the December 1937 issue of THE RIFLEMAN was a one-page article on making a lapping device for removing shotgun chokes. It merely consisted of two lapping surfaces held against the barrel by means of relatively heavy springs fitted to a mandrel or guide bar. In working over the barrel, these surfaces should be covered with fine-grade emery cloth or the final polishing done by using very fine valve grinding compound on the hardwood polishing surfaces.—A. H. B.

REVOLVER REST

I have been quite interested in pistol and revolver shooting, loading my own shells and working for the best results. This led to the need for something better than aiming by hand when checking on my different loads, so I made up a machine rest which worked out very well for me. The construction of the rest is clearly shown in the accompanying photograph. You simply hold the gun in position, fire it, and let it recoil out of the rest. As the gun jumps away from the rest there is no tendency for the rest to move and the gun will go back to the original place when replaced. Any solid support will hold the rest as it does not take any of the recoil.

Homemade revolver rest

It will take any pistol or revolver that has flat base on the stock. Just set the gun in the V-block on the rear and lay the barrel in the V on the eccentric disc at the front. This eccentric disc with the V-groove in it is made of fiber and, owing to the off-center position of the axis hole, is adjustable for elevation. The first one I had was made of cast iron but this nicked up a couple of barrels so I went to fiber to eliminate this.—T. S. SEELAR, Erie, Pennsylvania.

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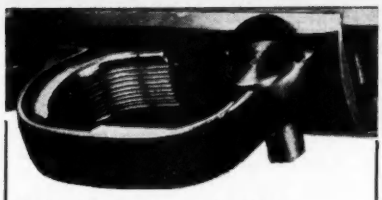

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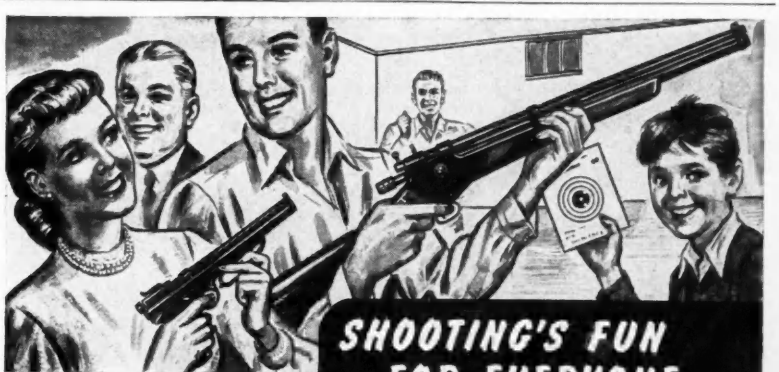

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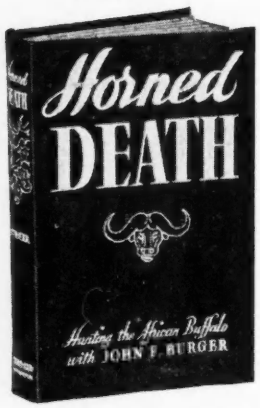

Much rarer than a diamond of Kimberley is the African-born white hunter who can give the readers' world a fine account of his adventures in the "bush." In adventurer-author Burger we have a pioneer Afrikander who brings to us, in good writing style, stories of a forty-year sojourn in places where survival was the first law.

The cunning and murderous Cape buffalo has been the animal most persistently hunted by Burger. Over one thousand specimens of the "horned death" have fallen to his rifles, a bag-total approached by no other hunter. But Burger was not always the hunter. There were those dreadful occasions when he became the quarry, waiting only for the death-dealing sweep of heavy black horns.

This man of the "bush" writes with restraint, and each situation develops its own pressure—to the bursting point. Then, skillfully, his storytelling undergoes a change of pace, and we accompany him on a quest for the elusive gorilla, or we follow the trail of a fabulous tusker. We become tense as Burger deliberately baits a skulking lion with his own body, and we are revolted when we see what he sees in cannibal villages. But through it all, there runs the author's fine sensitiveness to all aspects of his wild world, and his humorous passages have the pleasing quality of stray sunbeams seen in a deep forest. Before the book is closed, we join Burger in regret at parting with faithful Ndege, his head tracker and friend on many a trail.

HORNED DEATH is bound in cloth, colorfully stamped, and jacketed with glassine. The author has supplied many fine photographs, and the introduction provides American readers with an interesting account of this living Afrikander's pioneering career.

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NEW CLEANER AND PRESERVATIVE

Chemical Specialties, Inc., P. O. Box 1253, Oakland, Calif., has developed an excellent gun cleaning material called "Hart's 77 Gun Cleaner" and "Hart's 77 Gun Oil."

The cleaner does an excellent cleaning job but did not stand up well as a rust preventative. It has also done well in removing potassium chlorate primer residue, at least in our extensive tests. This is partially contrary to the accepted belief that only water is safe to use to remove the corrosive residue. Rifles have been cleaned with No. 77 Cleaner, and left for more than a week protected only by Hart's No. 77 Oil. No signs of corrosion or rust appeared in them. The cleaner is good also for removing blackpowder fouling.

The No. 77 Gun Oil withstood a severe brine test for seven days before any signs of rust appeared. This is a normal time limit for a light preservative and lubricating oil. These products already have the approval of some well-known West Coast dealers.—A. H. B.

NEW AIR PISTOL

Baron Manufacturing Company, 72 W. Alameda St., Burbank, Calif., has produced a sensible and practical air pistol which is marketed through Healthways of Hollywood, 1360 E. 16th St., Los Angeles 21, Calif. This novel pistol shoots ⅝-inch diameter corks without the barrel or regular air rifle darts, BB pellets, or skirted slugs with either of the two barrels that thread into the front.

Though the air pistol is a novelty outfit, there is plenty of power to make the darts and pellets dangerous. Of course the cork missiles are harmless. The pistol is a unique idea which will present possibilities for much fun when properly used. The power of the pistol is great enough to cause bodily harm when shooting anything but the cork pellets.

The unique mechanism which cocks the pistol is rather difficult to work so the average youngster will not be able to operate it. The pistol's trade name is "The Sportsman Junior Air Pistol."—A. H. B.

BOLT HANDLES

I wish to "butt in" with a word or two of caution to the fellow attempting the alteration suggested in Charles Golueke's well got-

ten up and very well illustrated articles ("This Business of Bolt Handles," RIFLEMAN, March, page 30) for the first time. Before any change is made in bolt handle, strip the bolt, place it in receiver, and, holding rearward on bolt handle with some force, rotate the bolt to the fully locked position. Now push forward on bolt handle and note carefully if there is any forward motion. If there is, you can feel sure that the locking lugs have lost contact with the locking shoulders. It is then well to remember when making the cut in receiver to so make it that the bolt will be pulled rearward, bringing the locking lugs in solid contact with the locking shoulders. And further, when making that cut in receiver for handle, make sure that you allow at least 1/32 inch clearance to rear of the bolt handle.

Most Mauser actions have this point well taken care of but an occasional one will pop up that will allow the locked bolt to move forward as much as .025 inch. With the Springfield action I have run across some that allowed the locked bolt to move forward a full 1/32 inch.

Now let's take a Springfield or Mauser action that has the above mentioned slack. We alter the bolt handle according to Golueke's article. We then make the cut in receiver in such a way as to crowd the bolt forward and out of contact with the locking shoulders by, let's say, .025 inch. We then send the action and bolt to a concern doing rebarreling. We cannot expect the fellow rebarreling the action to go over same with a fine-toothed comb. His job is to rebarrel the rifle. This he does and uses gauges to get the headspace correct. Now when that rifle is fired the first time, you can lay a bet that the breech bolt will move rearward. It won't stop until it contacts the locking shoulders. What happens? The metal of receiver at the rear of the cut we made for bolt handle will either mash back or, should the weld be faulty, the handle is likely to let go. We now have a rifle with far too great headspace and the barrel will have to be refitted. Further, even after rebarreling, clearance must still be provided to the rear of bolt handle even though it was mashed back by firing the first cartridge. Otherwise, the bolt handle will keep tapping at the receiver as long as the rifle is used.—EMIL J. KOSHOLLEK, Stevens Point, Wis.

GOOD .45-70 LOAD

After six years repose in the corner, I took the old .45-70 Model 1884 to the range for exercise. After warming up with some Remington standard 405-grain blackpowder and a few handloads with 51½ grains of King's Semi-Smokeless, I tried your recommended 20 grains of No. 4759 and obtained the following results.

The load was 20 grains of No. 4759 with a 410-grain Bond bullet No. 4571062 and an 8½ primer. The distance was 100 yards, prone rest position. It is a good load—very little recoil—and I shall give it another trial. The 7 shots measured 2.13 inches center-to-center with 6 of them in 1.20 inches.—FRANK F. REYNOLDS, Alexandria, Va.

Answer: Thanks for the dope on the .45-70 smokeless powder load. That is good shooting for one of the old-timers, especially when using iron sights. Fortunately, this smokeless powder load develops pressure low enough to be safe even in the old .45-70 Springfield.—A. H. B.

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SECONDS in regular sporter stocks with knurled Tenite butt plate, pistol grip plate and forearm tip unattached but with screws furnished available at bargain prices: With small knot hole or checks in rear part of butt, quickly repairable, $4.50, postpaid. With medium knot hole or cracks in forearm, repairable, $2.50, postpaid. Delivery uncertain on Krag and Jap seconds.

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The Kollsman Instrument Division of Square D Company, Elmhurst, New York, announces a new 24-page booklet entitled "How to Select Binoculars" which is just off the press. The booklet may be obtained by mailing 25 cents to Sard Binoculars at the above address.

We have examined one of these booklets and feel that it is an excellent investment for anyone seeking guidance in the selection of binocular to meet his particular requirements.

☆ ☆ ☆

Phil Judd, 83 E. Park Street, Butte, Montana, sent in some good data on his 8 mm. custom loads. New .30-'06 cases are used, reshaped to 8 mm. size, and shortened to the correct length. The velocity is listed at 2530 foot seconds with 170-grain Winchester soft-point bullets.

New cases have been used to overcome some of the "stocking case" problems in some of the late war-made Mauser rifles.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Win-A-Mer Company, Waseca, Minn., can semi-inlet and shape (but not finish) gunstocks for Enfield, Mauser, Springfield, Krag, and Japanese 7.7 mm. actions when the customer sends in a stock blank.

The one inletting job we have seen was very good with plenty of wood left on the outside.

☆ ☆ ☆

M. L. Smith, armament specialist of Route 3, Bryan, Texas, has sent in several samples of his leather caps for the protection of rifle scopes. These are well made and handy and a very great protection for the scope.

☆ ☆ ☆

Mr. G. A. Pennapacker of **George's Custom Buckle & Gun Works,** 1820 21st Street, Boulder, Colorado, has sent us an engraved sterling silver belt buckle which is indeed a beautiful piece of work. It is attached to a handtooled leather belt from the S. D. Myres Saddle Co., of El Paso, Texas, and the combination has been much admired by everyone who has seen it.

Mr. Pennapacker writes, "It may interest you to know how I started in the custom buckle business.

"About 1936, I had a small gun shop here in Boulder, Colorado, doing general gun repairs and custom engraving. A friend brought in an old Krag for restocking and wanted some rifle stock jewelry of nickel silver installed. In the course of the bull session that followed, he asked if I could make him a belt buckle of nickel silver. I was in a rather obliging mood that day and between us we cooked up a buckle that suited his fancy. In a short while I had as many buckles to make as I had guns to fix. Since that day I've made buckles for everything from ladies coat belts on up."

☆ ☆ ☆

Robert G. McMurtrie of the **McMurtrie Gun Shop,** 722 South Central Avenue, Glendale, California, writes that he is now offering a complete line of sporter stocks,

standard to deluxe, ranging from $35 up. He says he can give reasonable delivery on stocks for Mauser, Springfield and Enfield rifles.

He also states the McMurtrie Gun Shop is continuing to rebarrel and modernize military actions at reasonable rates.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Birk Manufacturing Co. of East Harford, Connecticut, has sent us a sample of the Super Jet Dry Fuel Blow Torch.

This device, which sells for $1.00, is simple in the extreme, consisting merely of a brass blow pipe with a holder for a tablet of dry fuel.

These dry fuel tablets come in boxes of twelve, costing 25 cents each. Each tablet

Super Jet Dry Fuel Blow Torch

burns for ten minutes, giving an almost colorless, blue flame which is said to have a temperature in excess of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

To use, one of the fuel tablets is pressed into place, lighted with a match, and the edge of the blow pipe placed close to the flame. Then the end of the plastic tube is put in the mouth and the flame is blown against the object to be heated.

On the same day the torch was received, we tried the device on a silver solder job and it worked very satisfactorily. It works very much like an alcohol blow torch but is cheaper and safer since there is no liquid to spill. Moreover it has the advantage of always being ready for use when wanted because the fuel does not evaporate as it does with an alcohol torch.

We have found that when through using the torch, the flame can be blown out and the partly-burned tablet left for use the next time the torch is needed.

☆ ☆ ☆

Vernor Gipson has moved to a new address, Box 156, North Salem, Indiana. Gipson is well known for his barrel and chamber work. He boasts of having over 90 sets of chambering tools. In the new location, scopes, sights, and reloading supplies will be in stock.

☆ ☆ ☆

L. L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine, has mailed us his latest catalog. As usual the 80 pages are crammed full of wisely-selected equipment for the outdoorsman. A complete outfit for a hunting, camping, or fishing trip could be selected from this one catalog.

☆ ☆ ☆

Joe Goss, the well-known designer of fine sights, recently informed us that he has sold his business, including the name Goss Engi-

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Weaver K-4	45.00
Weaver K-2.5	37.50
Weaver J-4	27.50
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G & H Mounts	25.00
Echo Mounts	17.50
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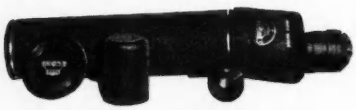
with O'Dell Scope Holder attached (Specify scope—add postage for 9 lb.)	24.50
BADGER HANDY BOX	1.25
BADGER SHEEPSKIN MITT	1.25
BADGER SLING KEEPER	1.00



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Super Argus	74.50
Saturn	25.00
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Freeland DeLuxe Off-set Stand	9.50
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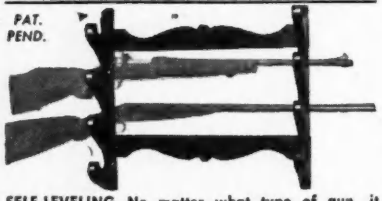

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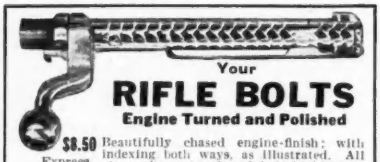

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31 cal. or 7.7 180 gr. S.P. 20 rds. $4.50, or 169 gr. gas check, $4.00. Jap .256 and 6.5 Italian loads 120 gr. S.P. 20 rds. $5.00, or 160 gr. F.M.P. or 128 gr. gas check $4.50. 8x57 Mauser 170 gr. S.P. 20 rds. $4.00, or 180 gr. gas check $3.50. Specify second choice on type bullet. We load all American calibers. 8MM unprimed cases $6.00 per 100, 31 cal. or 7.7 unprimed cases $7.00 per 100. .256 Jap & 6.5 Italian unprimed cases $10.00 per 100. 8MM 180 gr. gas check bullets, 31 cal. 169 gr. gas check bullets, 6.5 128 gr. gas check bullets $2.50 per hundred. Mfg. excise tax included. Dealers inquiries invited.

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neering to Mr. Sam Kyvig. Mr. Kyvig will now be president and manager of the concern and Mr. Goss will be Associate Engineer. Mr. Goss says that the new shop at Westmount, Illinois, is being equipped with modern machinery and that the sighting equipment produced will have the same quality that it has in the past.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE RIFLE
Its Development for Big Game Hunting

By S. R. Truesdell

No one has ever written this kind of a rifle book before.

It is the kind of a job that cannot be done—but Truesdell has done it. Take the 170 acknowledged "great hunters" of big game in America, Africa, India, and Tibet, covering the period from 1834 to 1940. Then take the 290 or more books in which these hunters have set down their experiences, comments, and preferences as to rifles and cartridges for big game. Blend these with the story of the mechanical development of guns and ammunition, and the social and economic development of the shooting clan. Condense essential facts into easy-to-understand tabulations. Spice with quotations from the books written by the hunters. Leave out all personal opinions (except a few about persons who propose antigun legislation). The result is one of the few real classics of reference literature in the shooting field. It could be dry but it reads as easily as the conversation flows around the fireplace in the hunting lodge. It could be a mass of confusing figures and opinions, but it presents a clear picture of a developing pattern which is rather amazing in view of the general (apparent) lack of agreement among hunters as to guns, cartridges, or equipment.

From all the experience and from all the tabulations, no "ideal" rifle emerges. For the period of over 100 years most "mighty hunters" emerge as men who gave up the search for the ideal and settled eventually on the need for about three guns. And there is more unanimity of agreement (within the mechanical limitations of each period) than you would expect. This is good reading for the armchair hunter even though it was written by and for the men who prefer their hunting far from the concrete highway.

The pictures, reproductions of old cuts, are not very intelligently distributed through the book and there is a useless duplication of tabular material in an appendix which serves only to add 32 pages to the bulk of the book but these shortcomings of the publisher cannot take away from Mr. Truesdell the honor of having done one of the most unique, interesting, and important books yet produced for the American or British shooter's library.—C. B. L.

(An NRA Library Book published by the Military Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Penn. 275 pages, plus 68 pages of illustrations. Available through the NRA Book Service. Price, $5.00.)

THE MUZZLE-LOADING CAP LOCK RIFLE

By Ned H. Roberts

American shooters need no introduction to Ned Roberts' classic work on the muzzle-

loading rifle. Originally issued as a privately printed book, it and a smaller supplement have long been out of print. Now these have been reissued under one cover, in revised and enlarged form. Suffice to say of this new edition that it is a fine job of bookmaking—big, clear type and illustrations of the same order on over 300 large-size pages, bound solidly and attractively. It bears, of course, the "NRA Library Book" endorsement.

It is not likely that any other work on muzzle-loading rifles can oust Ned Roberts' effort as the standard reference on the subject. From a lifetime acquaintance with the old rifles and their makers, he has built a volume that probably could never be duplicated. Too many of the old timers are dead and their products scattered for any later researcher to be able to assemble the material again. The publisher deserves a vote of thanks for making it available once more.—J. S.

(Published by the Military Service Publishing Company, Harrisburg, Penn. 308 pages, illustrated and indexed. Available through the NRA Book Service. Price, $7.50.)

COLT PERCUSSION PISTOLS

By James E. Serven & Carl Metzger

The third in a series of Serven-Metzger monographs on the early Colt pistols (*Paterson Pistols* and *Colt Dragoon Pistols* were the earlier ones), this work, the result of 15 years of careful research and compilation, is thoroughly authoritative. It will be invaluable to the gun collector or the student of firearms history.

The meat of the book is the historical section, some thirty pages of detailed description of various Colt models with half-tone cuts. It contains excellent material on the Confederate Colts as well as various other imitations and counterfeits of the Hartford arms. Some fourteen pages are devoted to Colt accessories and loading implements.

The remainder of the book is devoted to interesting and colorful historical comments about the days of the California gold rush, the stage coach lines, and the Pony Express. Found in this is quite a bit of Colt history, including a vivid description from the contemporary press of the burning of Colt's Armory in 1864, an event that made it very difficult for later historians to compile accurate data on the early Colt models, such as has been so successfully accomplished by the present authors.

This book is uniform in size and appearance with the other two—59 pages, 8½ x 11 inches, in paper covers. Bound together into one volume the three will make a splendid reference work on the Colts of the old days.

No gun-room library would be complete without the three excellent Serven-Metzger monographs on what the authors call "Coltiana."—J. S. H.

(Published by Carl Metzger, 2305 Canton Street, Dallas, Texas. Available thru NRA Book Service. Price, $3.00.)

FIVE CENTURIES OF GUNSMITHS, SWORDSMITHS, AND ARMOURERS, 1400-1900

By Lt. Col. Robert Edward Gardner

This revision and extension of Lt. Col. Robert E. Gardner's earlier lists of arms fabricators is the most extensive book in English on the subject.

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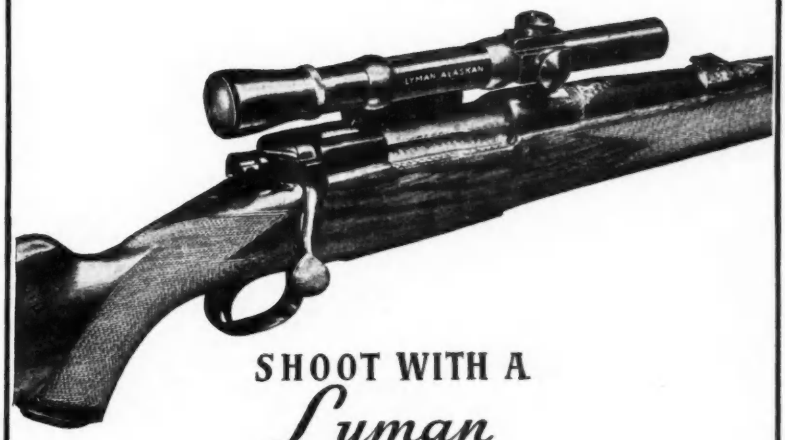

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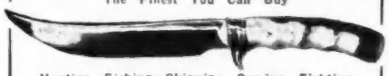

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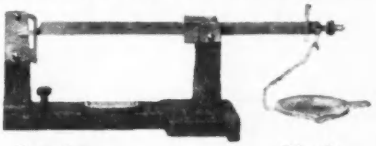

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.219 Imp'd Zipper	.303 British	22 H.P. CCC.
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.220 Swift	32 Win. Spl.	22-06 CCC.
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.240 Gebby Super Bltd.	9.3 x 62 mm.	25 Magnum CCC.
.25-20	.348 Win.	.270 CCC.
.250-3000 Savage	35 Rem.	.270 Magnum CCC.
25 Remington	35 Whelen	7 mm.-06 CCC.
.25-35	.351 Win.	7 mm. Magnum CCC.
.256 Jap	.375 Magnum	30-30 CCC.
.257 Roberts	38-40	30-40 CCC.
6.5 mm.	38-55	30-06 CCC.
.270 Winchester	.401 Win.	.300 Magnum CCC.
7 mm.	.405	.348 CCC.
.280 Ross	44-40	.375 Magnum CCC.
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.357 Magnum	9 mm. Luger	45 Colt rev.

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The Fasig Standard bullet puller with one standard collet only, $9.00. Standard Collet sizes .224, .257, .264, .278, .284, .308, .320, .357, .375. Extra Collets, standard size, $1.50 each. Special Bullet Puller with one special collet only $10.00. Special Collet sizes .44 and .45. Extra Collets, special size, $2.00 each. Pullers made of hardened steel, collets tool steel. Fully Guaranteed. Disc. to Dlrs.

We have built up one of the finest precision gunsmithing machine shops in the country. We repair and rechamber guns of all types. In addition, we carry one of the West's largest stocks of new and used guns, hunting and target accessories, reloading components, books and manuals for the shooter. When you want something for guns—contact Hollywood!

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Write for Catalog

Colonel Gardner has divided his subject geographically and topically, devoting sections to American gunsmiths, American swordsmiths, and American cannon founders, and giving comparable lists for the Eastern Hemisphere, including a short list of bowyers and fletchers.

Many entries have been rewritten. In some, material of interest has been added. In others, though this group is small, notes have been deleted. Many new names have been added to all lists, but some of the names contained in the author's earlier works are missing. All of the men and companies listed were actually engaged in producing arms. Government inspectors and even inventors, unless they were also manufacturers, are omitted. The lists are complete with double entries and cross references so that a man like Nathan Starr can be found in both the list of American swordsmiths and the list of American gunsmiths. Another point of interest is that despite the limiting dates set by the title, the lists also contain many makers of the twentieth century.

The bibliography names many obscure catalogues and other publications which should be of interest to the student of arms. However, by omission, it indicates that the book was compiled without the use of recent and valuable books such as Fuller and Steuart's *Firearms of the Confederacy* and the works of Major James E. Hicks.

In this volume Colonel Gardner has made a distinct contribution to arms literature and provided a valuable aid to arms students. His list of American gunsmiths is good, though it contains fewer entries than some others. Experts may miss the names of the Roses, Gridley, Strong, Winner, and other early artisans in the list of American swordsmiths, but it is still the best list to date and contains many of the names which escape most. The lists of cannon founders, armourers, and bowyers are without rival.

Errors creep into even the most accurate of books and especially into works of the magnitude of this one. However, it should be said that almost all of the noticeable ones in this book appear to be traceable directly to careless proofreading, as in faulty spellings and the repetition of "Richardson & Cutter" where it should obviously be "Richardson & Overman."—HAROLD L. PETERSON *(Published by Walter F. Heer, Columbus, Ohio. Available through the NRA Book Service. Price, $10.50.)*

HORNED DEATH

By JOHN F. BURGER

Born in Africa nearly a half-century ago, John F. Burger has been hunting on that continent since 1914, either as a professional hunter or an aside from his work of locating mineral deposits on the Dark Continent.

This book is largely about the African Cape Buffalo, generally considered the most dangerous big game animal to hunt, though Mr. Burger has much to say about the hunting of lion, elephant, hippopotamus and rhinoceros. From this book, well written and most entertaining, the reader will learn much about various wild animals, their habits and method of action when attacked. Also Mr. Burger has something to say about the kind of gun the real hunter uses and what he thinks of the various calibers.—J. S. H. *(Published by Standard Publications, Huntington, West Virginia. Available through the NRA Book Service. Price, $6.50.)*

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 25 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C.

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 1st of April for the May issue. Ads *received* after the 1st of April *and not later than the 1st of May* will be inserted in the June issue.)

3. Who May Advertise: Any individual or firm whose advertisements and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or services in the ARMS CHEST.

4. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: We reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

5. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA, in the case of members.

6. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Blind ads, with box numbers *only*, will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

7. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning high-power). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (example: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

8. Responsibility for Illegible Copy: Type or print ads plainly, for we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

9. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Properly Described: The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards*, as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition; implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

When price lists or descriptive catalogs are offered the *condition* of every weapon so listed must be properly described in accordance with these requirements.

10. Requesting Privilege of Examinations: We suggest that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C. O. D., with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

11. "Outlawed" Firearms Cannot Be Sold: Federal statutes forbid the sale or trade of all machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" (the exact barrel length must be specified for all Mannlicher-Schoenauers) and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks*—except by a Federally licensed dealer who has paid the special tax required by Section 3260, Internal Revenue Code.

In addition, the NRA has adopted a policy of not accepting advertisements covering small semi-automatic pocket pistols which have no practical value as target, police or military weapons.

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AMMUNITION: 75 SIZES IN STOCK. DIME for list. Central Sports. Delphos, Ohio. 4-48.

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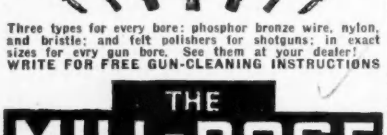

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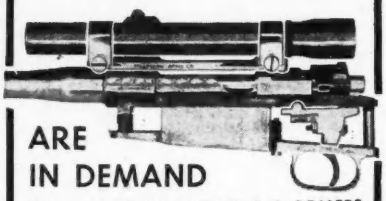

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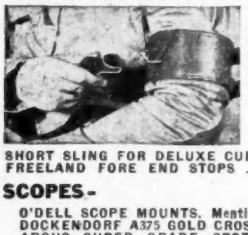

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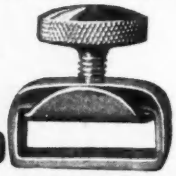

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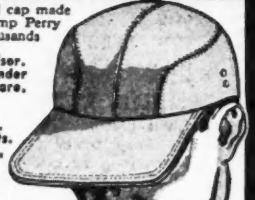

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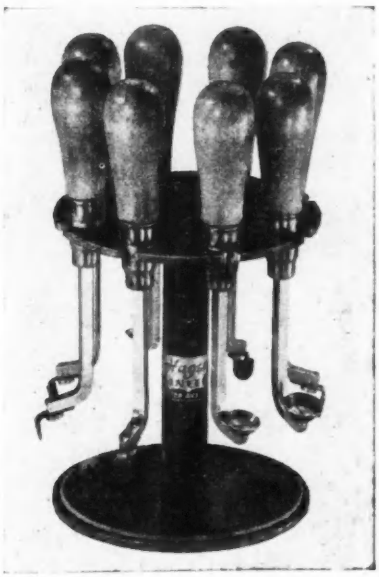

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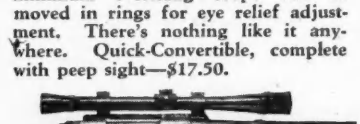

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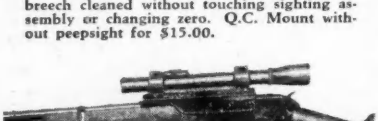

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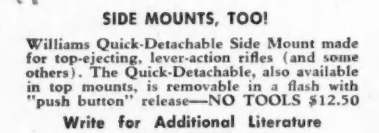

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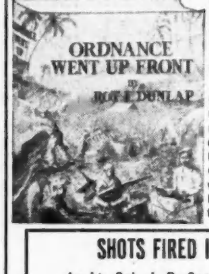

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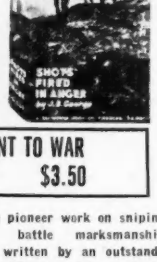

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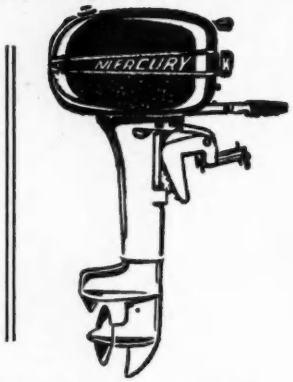

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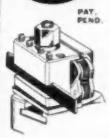

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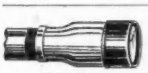

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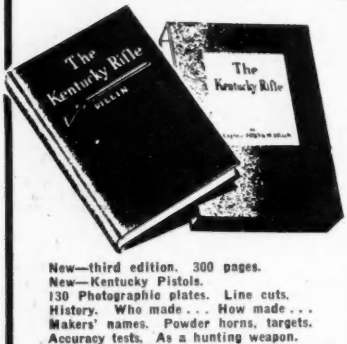

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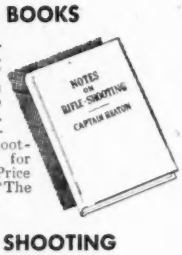

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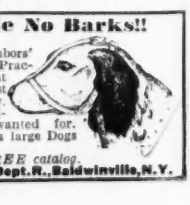

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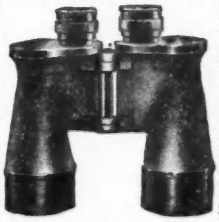

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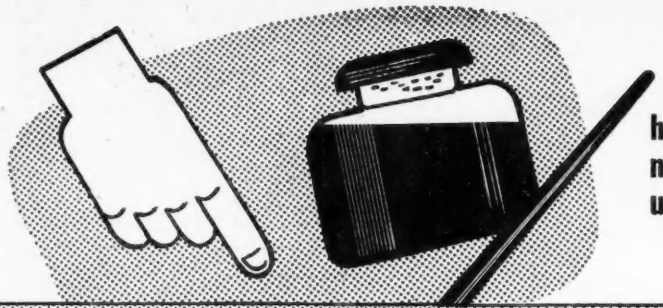

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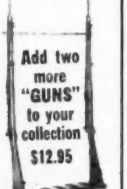

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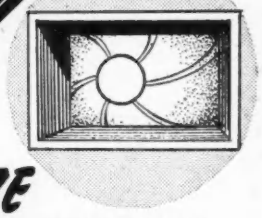

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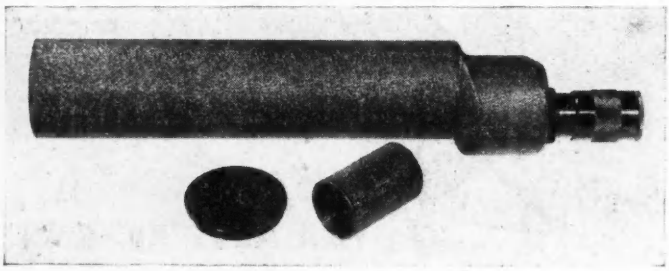

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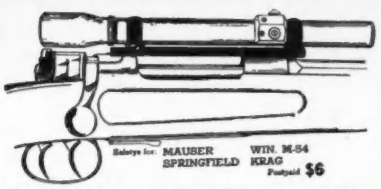

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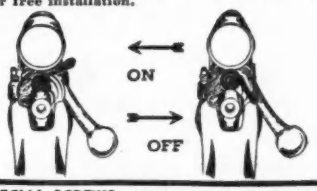

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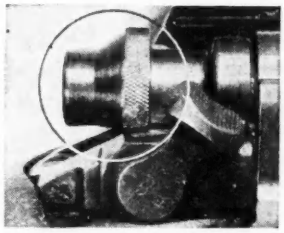

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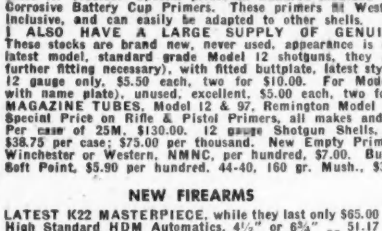

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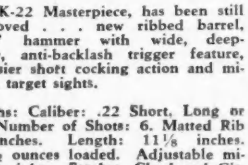

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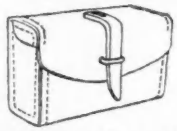

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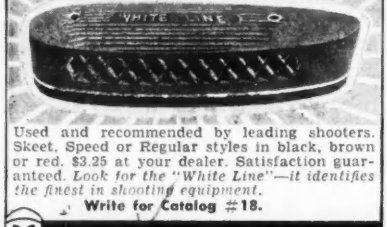

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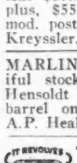

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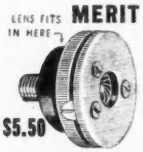

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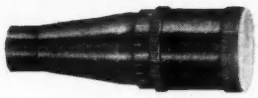

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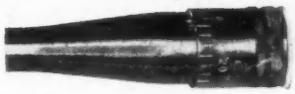

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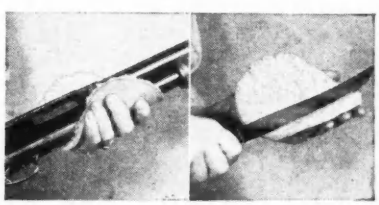

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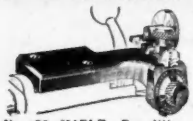

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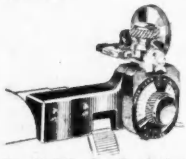

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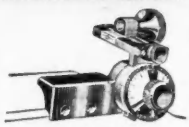

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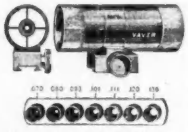

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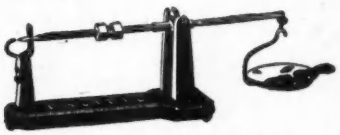

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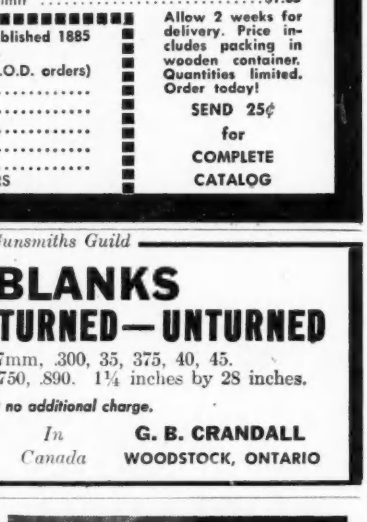

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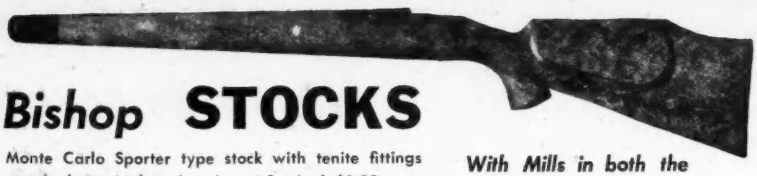

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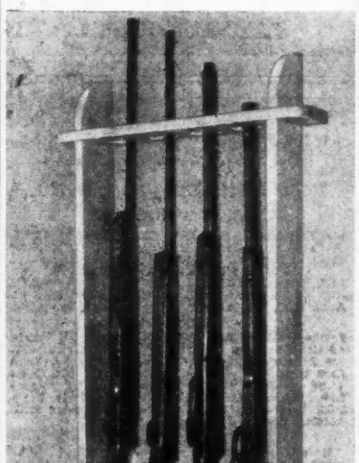

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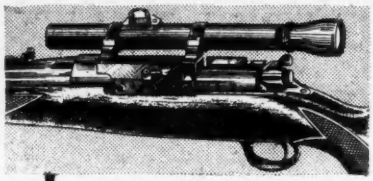

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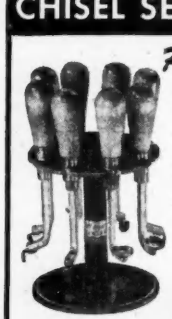

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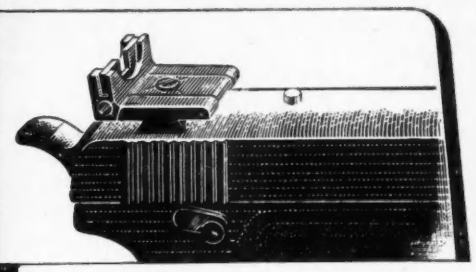

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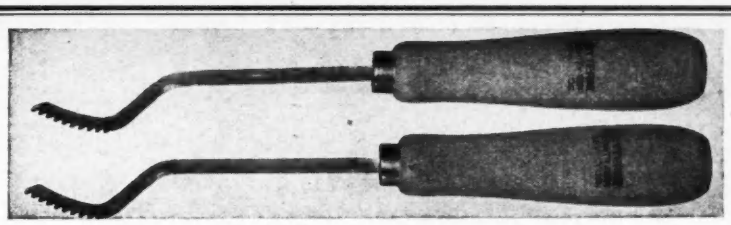

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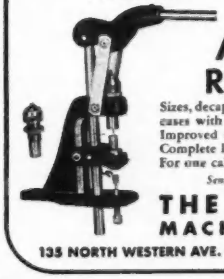

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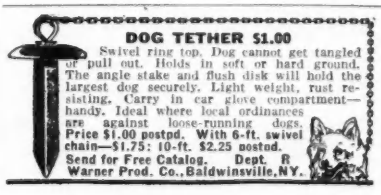

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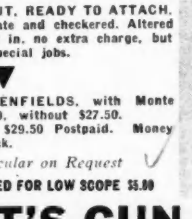

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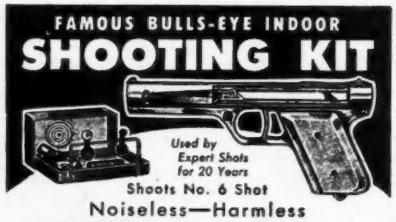

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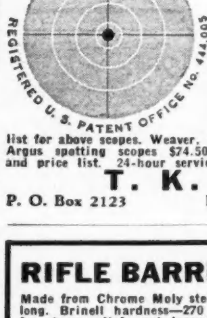

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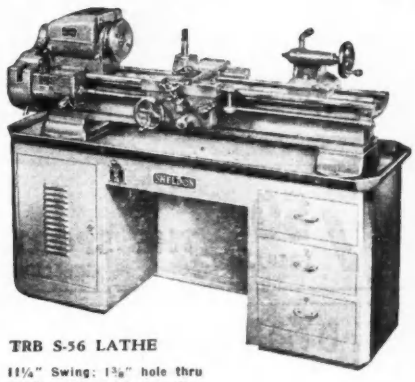

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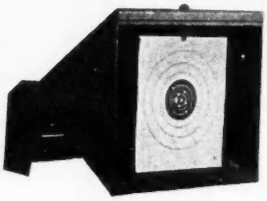

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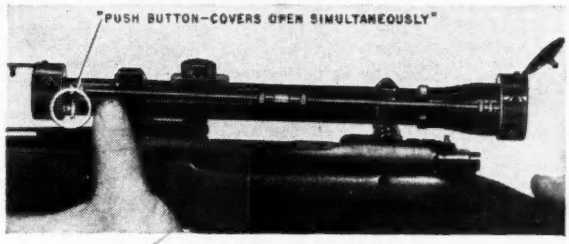

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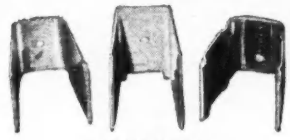

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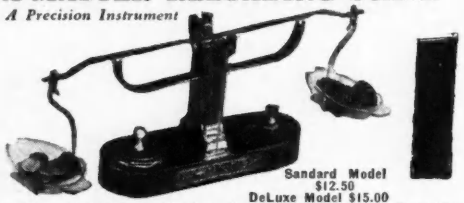

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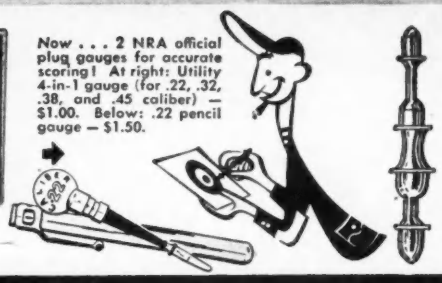

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